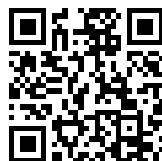

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HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS MARGARET WITH HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

Gt. Brit. Colonial Office.

Report

on

Mauritius

1956

LONDON

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1957

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PART I

Review of the Year 1956

ROYAL VISIT

The outstanding feature of an eventful year was the three-day visit paid to the Colony by Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret—the first Royal visit to Mauritius since Their Majesties the late King George the Sixth and Queen Elizabeth, then Duke and Duchess of York, visited the Island in 1927. Her Royal Highness received an enthusiastic welcome when She came ashore at Port Louis from the Royal Yacht *Britannia* on the morning of the 29th September. In the Throne Room at Government House an Address of Welcome was presented to Her Royal Highness by Mr. H. R. Vaghjee, Vice-President of the Legislative Council, on behalf of the Legislative Council and the people of Mauritius. Crowds lined the streets when Her Royal Highness drove through Port Louis *en route* to the site of the new Royal College School at Cassis where She laid the foundation stone. In the afternoon Her Royal Highness attended a race meeting at the Champ de Mars, Port Louis, arranged by the Mauritius Turf and Jockey Clubs, which afforded an enormous crowd an opportunity of seeing Her Royal Highness. The day was rounded off by a Banquet in the Council Chamber at Government House, Port Louis, which was brilliantly illuminated for the occasion, and by a display of fireworks at the Champ de Mars. The following day, Sunday, Her Royal Highness attended Divine Service at St. Paul's Church, Vacoas, before proceeding to Caudou to open the new Orthopaedic Centre, which Her Royal Highness graciously consented should be known in future as "The Princess Margaret Orthopaedic Centre". Her Royal Highness then drove to Rose Belle along the Route Royale via Floréal and Curepipe. On Monday morning, 1st October, Her Royal Highness undertook a tour of the northern districts of the Island and planted a commemorative tree in the Botanical Gardens at Pamplemousses. Thereafter Her Royal Highness drove via Centre de Flacq to visit the sugar factory of Flacq United Estates Ltd. and returned to Le Réduit via Quartier Militaire, St. Pierre and Moka. In the afternoon there was a garden party at which some 1,250 persons were present. The same evening a visit in the course of which the Royal Visitor had won all hearts, came to an end as Her Royal Highness sailed away in the *Britannia*.

POLITICAL

Politically the year was one of elections and of discussion and argument on constitutional change.

Four Members of the Legislative Council died during the year. Mr. Gabriel Martial, Member of the Executive Council, Nominated Member of the Legislative Council, editor of *Le Mauricien*, died on the 7th March. Mr. Duncan Taylor, a Nominated Member of the Legislative Council and managing director of Taylor Smith & Co., died in the United Kingdom not long after. Mr. J. G. Rozemont, First Member for Port Louis, President of the Mauritius Labour Party and President of the Mauritius Trades Union Council, who was a member of the delegation from Mauritius which visited London in 1955 for discussions with the Secretary of State on constitutional change, died in hospital on the 22nd March. Finally on the 27th August occurred the death of Mr. Ackbar Gujadhur, Member of the Executive Council and First Member for Moka-Flacq, director of Gujadhur & Sons Ltd.

The deaths of Mr. Rozemont and Mr. Gujadhur necessitated by-elections in Port Louis and Moka-Flacq which took place respectively in May and November and resulted in the return of Dr. W. R. Dupré and Mr. R. Balgobin, both of the Mauritius Labour Party. There was some disorder in Port Louis after the by-election and the Police had to intervene.

Mr. Félix Laventure and Mr. Ian G. G. Smith were appointed Nominated Members of the Legislative Council and took their seats on the 18th September.

The correspondence between the Secretary of State and the Governor on constitutional change was published on the 13th March as Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1956. The main points in the Secretary of State's plan were the introduction in 1958 of universal adult suffrage coupled with proportional representation and the retention of multi-member constituencies, an increase in the elected membership of the Legislative Council from 19 to 25, restriction of the number of nominated members to a maximum of 12, an increase in the unofficial membership of the Executive Council to nine (of whom seven would be elected by the Legislative Council by the system of proportional representation with the single transferable vote, as at present, and two appointed by the Governor) and the early introduction of a ministerial system with collective responsibility, all the members of the enlarged Executive Council having the title of Minister and six of the unofficial members having portfolios. Other measures were the appointment of a Speaker from

outside the Colony, the reform of procedure in the Executive and Legislative Councils and the strengthening of the Secretariat. On the 9th April a six-day debate began on the Legislative Council on a motion inviting the Council to adopt as a whole the plan put forward by the Secretary of State. In the debate the Labour Party speakers criticised particularly the introduction of proportional representation for the election of members of the Legislative Council and its retention for the election of Ministers, as well as the provision for nominated members of the legislature. The substitution of the words "as a basis" for "as a whole" was proposed by Dr. Millien in the course of a speech in which he suggested the adoption of single-member constituencies. On the last day of the debate, 15th May, Mr. Seeneevassen, on behalf of the Labour Party, moved a further amendment expressing disappointment at the proposals of the Secretary of State and asking him to reconsider them. Mr. Seeneevassen's amendment was lost by 16 votes to 13, Dr. Millien's amendment was lost without a division and the original motion was then carried by 15 votes to 14, the Labour members all voting against.

On the resumption of the Legislative Council on the 18th September after the winter recess the Governor reminded Members that the term of office of three of the unofficial members of the Executive Council would expire immediately before, and that of the remaining member immediately after, the sitting of the Legislative Council on the 25th September. It was the intention that the introduction of the ministerial system, which was to be regarded as a stage of the whole constitutional plan, should take effect at the end of the term of office of the unofficial members of the Executive Council who were appointed in 1953. The constitutional instruments relating to the programme of constitutional development were not ready and would not be ready for some time but the enlargement of Executive Council and the inception of the ministerial system could be brought about administratively as an interim measure. On the 25th September the Legislative Council would be called upon to elect four members to the Executive Council and the full number of nine would be made up by the exercise of the Governor's powers under the existing Royal Instructions. In electing members to the Executive Council the Council would thus be electing prospective ministers. On the 25th September Dr. Ramgoolam announced that the Labour Party had decided not to participate in the vote and the Labour members withdrew from the Council Chamber while the vote was being taken. Mr. A. G. Sauzier, Mr. A. R. Mohamed,

Mr. A. M. Osman and Dr. L. A. Célestin were then elected. Subsequently Mr. M. A. D. R. Maigrot and Mr. F. Laventure were appointed by the Officer Administering the Government. At the end of the year the Executive Council was composed of the three officials and the six unofficial members mentioned above. No appointments as Liaison Officer had been made by the end of the year.

The Keith-Lucas Commission completed in January its enquiry into the conduct of local government elections. In its report, published as Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1956, the Commission found that arrangements for the registration of electors and the conduct of elections had not been wholly satisfactory in the past and recommended *inter alia* that responsibility for these matters should be taken over from the Municipal and Town Councils by an Electoral Commissioner appointed by the Governor. The report was debated in the Legislative Council in March on a Government motion that *inter alia* the Government should take early steps to bring about the reorganisation of electoral arrangements recommended therein. An amendment moved by Mr. Forget on behalf of the Labour Party, urging the Government "to introduce immediate legislation bringing to an end the life of the present Municipal Council and appoint a Commission to take over the administration of the Town of Port Louis until new elections can be held after reorganisation of electoral arrangements", was carried by 13 votes to 12, the three official members abstaining. The Labour members of the Municipal Council then resigned. Since it was not expedient to put the municipality into commission and since it would not have been proper to hold by-elections on an electoral register which had been recognised to be imperfect, the Municipality (Transitional Provisions) Ordinance (No. 2 of 1956) was enacted, the main object of which was to legalise the non-holding of by-elections pending the reorganisation of electoral arrangements recommended by the Keith-Lucas Commission and the general election due to be held later in the year. Legal effect was given to the greater part of the Commission's recommendations in the Local Government Elections Ordinance (No. 1 of 1956) which came into force on the 17th April.

The Electoral Commissioner was appointed in May and the preparation of a fresh register of electors was put in hand expeditiously so that it was possible for the general election to the Municipal Council to be held on the 2nd September. There was a record poll which resulted in the election of eleven members of the Labour Party and five members of the *Parti Mauricien*.

A dispute between the General Port and Harbour Workers Union and the Federation of Port and Harbour Employers led to a strike which lasted from the 10th September to the 19th September when a settlement was reached. During this period stevedoring facilities were maintained on a reduced scale.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL

Climatic conditions were exceptionally good and the 1956 sugar crop established another record of 571,848 metric tons, as compared with the previous records of 512,576 tons in 1953 and 533,261 tons in 1955. The negotiated price for sugar bought within the Commonwealth under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement was unchanged at £40-15/- a long ton, while the price of sugar on the open market was higher than the negotiated price under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement, and sugar in excess of the guaranteed quota was accordingly sold at varying prices well above the negotiated price. The net average price is not yet known but it is estimated that the total value of the crop will be of the order of Rs 268 million, i.e. an increase of about Rs 27 million over the previous year's figure.

The prospects for 1957 are good, but the crop is not expected to reach the record figure. On the other hand the negotiated price has been increased to £42/3/4 and the price on the world market is still buoyant.

Tea production rose from 1,341,848 lbs in 1955 to 1,538,293 lbs in 1956, but exports were lower at 335,365 lbs as compared with 387,167 lbs in the previous year.

The closing of the Colony's accounts for 1955-56 showed a surplus of Rs 10.3 million instead of a deficit of Rs 9.2 million as forecast in the Estimates. This difference is mainly due to savings of Rs 9.3 million made on the ordinary budget of Rs 100 million, and Rs 9.2 million on the extraordinary expenditure budget of Rs 51.4 million owing to the postponement of works which could not be undertaken during the financial year. Total revenue amounted to Rs 143 million and actual expenditure was Rs 132.7 million.

The Ten-Year Development and Welfare Plan initiated in 1946 was succeeded by the Capital Expenditure Programme 1955-1960, published as Sessional Paper No. 6 of 1956. The final progress report on the Ten-Year Plan showed total expenditure of Rs 84½ million. The new Programme provides for the expenditure

of Rs 130 million, including a reserve of Rs 10 million, over the five years to be financed from local funds, Colonial Development and Welfare grants, and loans.

* No further loans were raised during 1956.

The recommendations of the Fiscal Committee, adopted at the end of 1955, were implemented during the course of the year by modifications of the Income Tax Ordinance and of Customs and Excise duties. *Ad hoc* committees were meanwhile examining certain aspects of income tax law and practice and the existing scales of fees for manufacturing, trading and professional licences.

S O C I A L S E R V I C E S

A special two-year programme was drawn up early in the year with the object of finding room for the increasing number of candidates for admission to the Government and aided primary schools. This programme involves the construction of about 485 classrooms and the training of about 550 teachers with the object of raising the primary school population from about 72,000 to about 100,000 by January, 1958. It was put in hand immediately and by December 257 additional classrooms had been built and were ready for occupation when the new school year began in January, 1957. At the same time the construction of new schools continued: seven new primary schools were opened while eight others were under construction at the end of the year.

Further progress has been made with the expansion of facilities for secondary education. The Royal College at Curepipe is being extended and improved, the construction of a new building to house the Royal College School on the outskirts of Port Louis has begun, and the second stage of building operations at Queen Elizabeth College, the Government secondary school for girls, was completed.

The search for a Principal for the proposed Government technical school had not been successful by the end of the year. The sugar industry was considering the establishment of a trade school.

The health of the population continued to show steady improvement. Malaria has been virtually eradicated and has ceased to be a health problem. The B.C.G. vaccination campaign continued. An agreement has been signed with the World Health Organisation for the provision by the Organisation of technical assistance in regard to tuberculosis control. A nutrition survey to elucidate the nature of the anaemia prevailing in the Island has also begun with expert assistance from the Organisation. A further

fall in the general death rate was recorded from 29.5 per thousand in 1946 to 11.8 in 1956 (12.9 in 1955). The infant mortality rate has also registered a substantial fall from 145.2 per thousand in 1946 to 66 in 1956.

The medical services continued to expand. The Orthopaedic Centre, a major institution for the care and treatment of victims of poliomyelitis, was completed during the year. The extension of the Civil Hospital in Port Louis is in hand. An additional ward at the Mental Hospital and a specialised Ophthalmic Unit at Victoria Hospital, with accommodation for 30 beds, are under construction. The Candos Nurses' Home for the residential training of nurses, the Health Centre at Rose Hill, a rural dispensary and new quarters for hospital and sanitary staff were all completed during the year.

The construction of a new social welfare centre at Mont Roches, the twelfth in the rural areas, was well advanced by the end of the year.

Further progress has been made with housing, both in the urban and rural areas, but the housing situation remained difficult in relation to the rapidly increasing population. Of the Rs 10½ million provided for housing loans to the local government bodies in the urban areas Rs 7 million had been issued by the end of the year. Two of the Town Councils, having completed their original projects, have started fresh schemes. In the rural areas the construction of housing estates at Long Mountain and New Grove was completed for the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee while four more were in progress at Bois Chéri, Montagne Blanche, St. Pierre and Bel Air.

Towards the end of the year the Committee approved the grant of an interest-free loan of Rs 1½ million to Flacq United Estates Limited for the construction of a model village for its workers.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

The progressive extension of the Island's domestic water supplies has continued. It is based on the Mare-aux-Vacoas and Piton du Milieu reservoirs, from which supplies of clean water are being extended to all districts.

Electricity development continued. The Central Electricity Board's St. Louis Power Station was completed with the installation of the third and fourth 1,750 KW generating sets. These developments enabled power cuts to be avoided during a quite severe water shortage at the end of the year. Work continued on the Eau Bleue

hydro-electric project and several lesser schemes were put in hand, but no new sources of hydro-power came into production during the year.

During the year the Board took over the undertaking of the General Electric Supply Company and is now the sole authority for the generation and distribution of electricity in the Island. By the end of 1956 the number of domestic consumers connected reached 35,775 and the average annual consumption per consumer reached 888 units.

COMMUNICATIONS

The last of the railway passenger services (that between Port Louis and Curepipe) came to an end after the last train had run on the 31st March. However, some passenger trains were run during the Royal Visit, mainly for the conveyance of schoolchildren.

The bus services absorbed without difficulty the passenger traffic formerly carried by rail. The management of bus companies was on the whole satisfactory and the bus services were run with greater efficiency. In accordance with a recommendation made by the Road Traffic Licensing Authority a general increase in bus fares was approved and came into force on the 1st April. Among the conditions of the increase were that the bus companies should extend their hours of operation and negotiate improved conditions of employment for their staff. These conditions were fulfilled.

A representative of Coode and Partners, consulting engineers, visited the Colony early in the year at the Government's request to undertake a thorough examination of the structure of Quay "D".

DEPENDENCIES

The Capital Expenditure Programme 1955-1960 includes provision of approximately Rs 3.3 million for the agricultural development of Rodrigues, the principal dependency of Mauritius. This involves a series of radical measures to conserve water, combat soil erosion and exhaustion, and improve livestock. Detailed proposals were worked out by the Senior Agricultural Officer who was posted to Rodrigues in 1955 and good progress had been made with their implementation by the end of 1956.

HONOURS

Her Majesty The Queen was graciously pleased to approve the following appointments and awards on the occasion of the New Year and on Her Birthday:—

NEW YEAR

Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire
ALFRED NORTH COOMBES, Deputy Director of Agriculture.

Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

VÈLE GOVINDEN, Assistant Postmaster General.

MISS DAISY MARY LAFITTE, Confidential Assistant, Procureur General's Office.

British Empire Medal (Civil)

JEAN ELVARÈS PHILOGÈNE, for public services.

BIRTHDAY

Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

XAVIER KËNIG, Engineer for Development of Water Supplies.

Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

MAX PETER ROHAN, for public services.

ABDOOL SAKOOR SULLIMAN MOOS, Assistant Establishment Officer.

Imperial Service Order

GEORGE BOND, Director of Electricity and Telephones.

Colonial Police Medal

BASDEO RAMESSUR, Sub-Inspector of Police.

LÉON MARCEL, Police Constable.

JEAN RICCARD FACTOTUM, Police Constable.

Certificates and Badges of Honour

His Excellency the Governor approved the following awards on the occasion of Her Majesty's Birthday:—

MISS FRANCE BOYER DE LA GIRODAY, for social welfare work and services in connexion with fundamental education.

BASDEO GOPEE, for services in connexion with the co-operative movement.

ROOPNARAIN MODY, for services in connexion with community development.

AUGUSTE VOLLAIRE, for services in connexion with rural local government.

VISITORS

MR. H. J. L. ANDRÉ LAFOREST, Secretary of State for Air of the Government of the French Republic.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL JAMES H. DOOLITTLE, U.S. Air Force, and MRS. DOOLITTLE.

MR. K. F. NOBLE, Canadian Government Trade Commissioner in South Africa.

CHIEF THOMAS MAREALLE II, Tanganyika Territory.

MR. W. H. CHINN, Adviser on Social Welfare to the Secretary of State.

MR. G. R. GRIBBLE, Assistant Inspector General of Colonial Police.
MISS LYLE CREELMAN, Chief of Nursing Section, World Health
Organisation, Geneva.

DR. K. A. T. MARTIN, World Health Organisation Representative,
East African Region.

VISITING SHIPS

Mauritius was visited by H.M. Submarine *Tally Ho* in October
and by H.M.N.Z.S. *Royalist* in December.

The French aircraft tender *Commandant Robert Giraud*,
visited the Colony in April and October and the gunboat *Comman-
dant Duboc* in June.

PART II

Chapter I: Population

A census of the population, which was taken during the night of the 28th—29th June, 1952, gave the following results:

Males ...	...	252,032
Females ...	...	249,383
TOTAL ...		501,415

The population of Mauritius as at the 31st December, 1956, was estimated therefrom at 579,000. All the members of the Royal Pioneer Corps who were in military employment overseas have now returned to the Colony.

The natural increase, that is the excess of births over deaths in 1956, was 18,171, a number which is nearly 7 times the corresponding average for the five pre-war years (1935–39).

Civilian departures from the Colony exceeded arrivals by 478.

The average density of the population for the whole Island was 790 per square mile (calculated on the mid-year population).

BIRTHS

(a) The number of live births during the year 1956 was 24,910 an increase of 1,940 on the number for 1955. It represented an increase of 3,525 on the yearly average number of births for the decennial period ending with 1955.

<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male births per 1,000 female births</i>
12,693	12,217	24,910	1.039

The following are the birth rates (per 1,000 of the mid-year population) for the last five years:

1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
48.1	46.3	41.3	41.8	43.8

(b) Still-births, which are not included as either births or deaths, numbered 1,789 (1,006 males and 783 females), corresponding to a rate of 7.2 per hundred live births. During the year 1955 there were 1,459 still-births, corresponding to a rate of 6.4.

DEATHS

Deaths registered in Mauritius numbered 6,739, corresponding to a rate of 11.8 per 1,000 of the population. The month of maximum mortality was September with 633 deaths. In 1955 the highest figure recorded was 765 in January, as against 867 in October 1954.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of deaths in 1955 ...	3,566	3,183	6,739
Rate per 1,000 of population	12.3	11.3	11.8

The average death rate for the period 1947–56 was 15.9.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age during 1956 was 1,644 as against 1,543 in 1955. This number was considerably lower than in the quinquennial period 1944-48.

The following table shows the infantile mortality rate (i.e. the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births):—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Rate</i>
1944-1948 (average) ...	... 154·9
1952 ...	... 80·8
1953 ...	... 93·5
1954 ...	... 81·1
1955 ...	... 67·2
1956 ...	... 66·0

MARRIAGES

The following table gives the number of marriages for the last five years:

Year ...	...	...	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Number of marriages	4,094	3,473	3,092	2,797	3,080		

MOVEMENT OF THE CIVIL POPULATION

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Arrivals ...	4,873	2,874	7,747
Departures...	5,219	3,006	8,225

These figures include :—

- (a) the very small figure of engaged or discharged seamen and
- (b) emigrants and immigrants to and from the dependencies, but not movements of troops and locally enlisted servicemen.

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

EMPLOYMENT

The distribution of workers in the various industries of the Colony in 1956 is given in the table below:

				<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Juveniles</i>	<i>Total</i>
(a) <i>Sugar Industry</i>	...	...	...	39,392	13,177	2,735	55,304
(b) <i>Public Services—</i>							
Government Departments	...			9,587	404	87	10,078
Town Councils	...	...	...	581	57	38	676
(c) <i>Other Industries—</i>							
Aloe Fibre...	...	...	...	532	826	25	1,383
Aerated Water Works	...	...	...	121	42	4	167
Bakeries	...	...	...	485	—	—	485
Building Contractors	...	...	...	1,269	—	22	1,291
Cigarette Manufactories	...	...	...	96	141	—	237
Compounders	...	...	...	78	—	—	78
Distilleries	...	...	...	86	1	2	89
Docks	...	...	...	959	10	18	987
Electricity	...	...	...	568	—	11	579
Jewellery	...	...	...	290	—	88	378
Lime Kilns	...	...	...	347	234	19	600
Match Manufactories	...	...	...	21	—	—	21
Oil Industry	...	...	...	57	—	—	57
Printing Establishments	...	...	...	261	—	72	333
Sack Factory	...	...	...	199	111	39	349
Salt Pans	...	...	...	69	56	5	130
Saw Mills	...	...	...	190	—	—	190
Shoe-making	...	...	...	238	—	189	427
Stevedoring Companies	...	...	...	820	—	—	820
Sugar Mechanical Pool	...	...	...	87	—	—	87
Tanneries	...	...	...	34	3	—	37
Tea Industry	...	...	...	800	610	270	1,680
Tobacco	...	...	...	779	660	330	1,769
Wine Industries	...	...	...	190	196	3	389
Workshops (Motor)	...	...	...	535	—	213	748
Workshops (Other)	...	...	...	699	3	60	762
Bus Coach Builders	...	...	...	92	—	61	153
				59,462	16,631	4,291	80,384

It is estimated, however, that the total number of gainfully occupied persons was 164,000. The difference between the estimated total number and the total shown in the above table comprises types of workers such as self-employed craftsmen, domestic servants, unskilled journeymen, etc. not included in the classification.

The sugar industry, the main industry of the Island, employed on an average 55,304 workers in 1956. The seasonal fluctuation in

this industry between the average inter-harvest employment and average harvest employment amounted to 17 per cent as shown by the following figures:

		<i>During inter-crop</i>	<i>During crop</i>
Artisans and drivers ...		4,255	4,674
Labourers:—			
Males	30,672		39,182
Females	12,496		13,858
Juveniles	2,596		2,874
		<u>47,764</u>	<u>55,914</u>
		<u>50,019</u>	<u>60,588</u>

The secondary industries of the Island, of which the more important are aloe fibre extraction, alcohol distilling from molasses, and the manufacture of tea and tobacco, provided employment for some 5,009 skilled workers, 4,893 unskilled males, 2,893 females and some 1,431 juveniles. The public services employed 2,727 skilled workers and 7,441 unskilled men, 561 women and 125 juveniles. The number of persons employed in industries and the public services was registered as 80,384 of whom 12,201 were skilled workers, 47,261 unskilled men, and 20,922 women and juveniles.

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

The value of the sugar annually exported from Mauritius represents more than 97 per cent of the total value of all exports from the Colony. The sugar industry therefore governs the entire economy of the Island; it embraces not only all those persons directly or indirectly interested in the planting of sugar cane and in the manufacture of sugar and its by-products and the financing of the cultivation, manufacture and marketing of the product, but also affects very largely the public revenue and those classes of people such as merchants and bankers, whose business is mainly connected therewith.

Much of the estate work is still of a manual nature, though mechanization of field work is being pushed as rapidly as imports of bulldozers, rotary ploughs and tractors permit; the rocky nature of the soil, however, makes it extremely unlikely that the industry can ever become fully mechanized.

OTHER OCCUPATIONS

Other occupations include the aloe fibre (*Furcraea Gigantea*) industry, which produces fibre for making bags for the sugar industry; the tea industry, which is at present operating on a comparatively small scale and producing tea mainly for local consumption; tobacco growing; food crops and the cultivation of vegetables; and the rearing of milch cows and livestock on a small scale.

Minor industries include fishing, sawmills, garages, workshops, salt pans, lime kilns, furniture manufacture, charcoal burning, match manufacture, the preparation of hides and skins, tanning and boot and shoe manufacture, clothing and shirt manufacture, and printing.

Apart from agricultural and industrial occupations, many of the population are employed as clerical workers and as domestic servants.

There is full employment among agricultural workers during five months' crop season of the year, but unemployment is occasionally reported amongst this category of workers, in certain areas at certain times, during the remaining period of the year. Efforts are made through the machinery of the Local Employment Committees to alleviate unemployment where it exists by the issue of permits to transport labourers by lorry to localities where work is available. Government departments employing labour reserve, as far as possible, their major works for the intercrop season. Employers are requested to recruit their labour through the Employment Registration Bureau and when workers are discharged from employment they are referred to the Bureau to register for re-employment.

The number of unemployed persons and the number of workers placed for the year 1956 were as follows:

					<i>Unemployed persons</i>	<i>Placings</i>
1956	January ...	...	...	...	3,316	357
	February ...	...	...	...	3,036	302
	March ...	...	...	...	2,884	325
	April ...	...	...	...	2,404	361
	May ...	...	...	...	2,470	261
	June ...	...	...	...	2,531	310
	July ...	...	...	...	2,286	110
	August ...	...	...	...	1,666	293
	September ...	...	...	...	1,454	349
	October ...	...	...	...	1,664	409
	November ...	...	...	...	1,509	307
	December ...	...	...	...	1,363	188
	Average registrations per month				2,382	—
	Average placings per month ...				—	298
1955	Average registrations per month				2,348	—
	Average placings per month ...				—	309

There is no migrant labour problem in Mauritius.

During 1956, 72 workers were recruited through the Employment Registration Bureau in accordance with the Free Emigration Regulations (No. 156 of 1951) to take up employment in Madagascar.

The Emigration Regulations, 1951, as subsequently amended, provide that before leaving the Colony, an emigrant shall obtain an Emigration Certificate from the Regional Controller (Labour Commissioner) of the area in which the emigrant resides, and such certificate shall be granted under the following conditions:—

(1) The emigrant shall have registered at an Employment Registration Bureau as a person seeking employment.

(2) The emigrant shall have completed a questionnaire in the form set out in the Schedule to these Regulations.

(3) The Regional Controller shall have satisfied himself, within the means at his disposal, that:—

(a) the proposed contract of service of the emigrant is fair and reasonable, and that the emigrant has taken adequate steps to provide for his dependent relatives in Mauritius;

(b) the contract of service will be valid in the country of employment;

(c) the emigrant is aware—

(i) of the general conditions of living in the country of employment;

(ii) of his rights as a British subject, and.

(iii) of the steps to be taken if he should at any time wish to return to Mauritius.

(4) The emigrant shall, if so required by the Regional Controller, submit himself for examination, at Government expense, by a duly qualified medical officer selected in that behalf by the Regional Controller.

(5) The emigrant shall, if so required, submit himself to a trade test under such conditions as the Regional Controller may prescribe, provided that such emigrant may be allowed all reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred by him for the purpose of undergoing such test.

W A G E S

The level of wages is largely determined by the rates prevailing in the sugar industry. In this industry minimum rates of wages for workers of the artisan category (represented by the Artisans

and General Workers' Union) and for labourers (represented by the Amalgamated Labourers' Association) are negotiated by collective bargaining between the two unions and the employers' organisation, the Sugar Producers' Association. A trade agreement provides for the cost of living bonus paid to sugar estate workers to fluctuate with the cost-of-living index prepared by the Labour Department and for a bonus to be paid at the end of the year, based on the size of the crop. The principle of collective bargaining has also been adopted by dock workers, by workers in the electricity supply companies, workers of the artisan category who are members of the Artisans and General Workers' Union and the respective employers' organisations. The wages of workers in some other industries are thought to be sufficiently protected, in general by the agreed rates payable in the sugar industry. In certain industries, however, where the trade union organisation is weak and incapable of fully representing the interests of its members, recourse has been had to orders issued under the Minimum Wages Ordinance. Orders of this nature have been issued in respect of workers in the printing trade, messengers in private firms, female factory workers and road passenger transport workers.

Basic wage rates in the sugar and other industries are subdivided into different categories in accordance with the type of work and the different categories of workers. Typical rates are:

SUGAR INDUSTRY

MONTHLY EMPLOYEES

<i>Labourers</i>		<i>Rs. cs.</i>	
Men	Class I ...	43 50	per month
Women and Young Persons	Class I ...	28 85	do.
Children (under 14 years of age)	...	20 08	do.
<i>Artisans</i> ...	...	48 80	to Rs. 160 per month

Overtime, sickness allowance, house accommodation, paid holidays, annual leave and maternity allowance are also provided for.

DAILY WORKERS

<i>Labourers</i>		<i>Rs. cs.</i>	
Men	Class I ...	2 48	per day
Women	Class I ...	1 24	do.
Young Persons	... ..	1 00	do.
Children (under 14 years of age)	...	0 69	do.
<i>Artisans</i> ...	...	2 05	to Rs. 3.45 per day

A cost-of-living Allowance at the rate of 47.5% from January to February, 45% from March to July and 46% from August to December on basic wage is paid to all employed in the sugar industry. An end-of-crop bonus ranging from $\frac{1}{2}$ month to 3 months' wages is also granted to all monthly employed persons depending upon the size of the crop and the price obtained for sugar.

OTHER INDUSTRIES

			Rs. cs.		Rs. cs.
Dock workers	...	...	83 90	to	228 20 per month
			3 00	to	14 83 per day
Artisans (Grade II to Grade I)	...	...	95 00	to	306 82 per month
			3 50	to	9 86 per day
Printing workers	...	...	3 75	to	7 50 per day
Salesmen	...	...	50 00	to	200 00 per month

The above rates are inclusive of cost-of-living Allowance.

HOURS OF WORK

In all cases where workers are employed upon a time-basis, the working day is of 8 hours, but where employed upon a task or piece work basis it may be only 5 hours. Government office hours are from 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. with a half-hour break for lunch. Business offices and many of the shops in Port Louis follow more or less the same practice.

COST OF LIVING FIGURES

The Labour Department's Cost-of-Living Index* figures for agricultural labourers in the year 1956 were:

January ...	145.2	July ...	148.4
February ...	146.7	August ...	148.1
March ...	147.3	September ...	150.2
April ...	146.4	October ...	151.6
May ...	147.3	November ...	151.7
June ...	147.3	December ...	149.9

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The Labour Department can trace some link in the past with the Office of the Protector of Slaves, for that office was succeeded by the Bureau of the Protector of Immigrants and, when immigration had ceased, the Poor Law Commissioner occupied the building and also administered the Immigration Law. This law was thoroughly revised in 1878, again in 1922, and again in 1938. The same year an Ordinance legalised the existence of industrial associations and the Director of Labour was given certain powers for regulating the settlement of industrial disputes. The Labour Ordinance, 1938, provided for the appointment of a Director of Labour and staff in order to "perform all duties imposed and exercise all powers conferred" on him by this Ordinance. The title of Director of Labour was later changed to that of Labour Commissioner.

* Base 1946 = 100

The Labour Commissioner is an overseas officer, the Deputy Labour Commissioner and the two Assistant Commissioners and the rest of the staff are recruited locally. The field staff consists of thirteen Labour Officers, including one woman officer who is particularly responsible for estate housing conditions.

Amongst the senior officers, duties are divided functionally, i.e. conciliation, trade union relations and enforcement of safety, health and welfare provisions. Amongst the junior officers, duties are divided territorially and they are responsible under the senior officer to whom they are attached for whatever duties are allotted to them in their particular districts. These district Labour Officers, each of whom is required to follow a Labour Officers' Training Course in the United Kingdom, perform a most important task, being in close and continuous contact with the mass of the workers, and helping the individual worker to understand and make use of the labour laws.

Inspection of camps and factories is regular and thorough. Careful reports are prepared and copies of the relevant portions are sent to the employers concerned, with a request for early action. These letters are followed up by further inspections and a warning of prosecution if no action is taken by the employer. The number of factories registered has also increased considerably.

Many sugar estates house part of their labour force on the estates and a group of such lodgings is called a camp. Under the Labour Ordinance the state of these camps must not fall below a certain standard and it is the duty of the Labour Department to inspect the camps at regular intervals.

SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE

The Safety, Health and Welfare Branch of the Labour Department is under the charge of an Assistant Labour Commissioner with a staff of two Labour Officers and one female Labour Inspector to ensure the safety, health and welfare of employees under the Factory and Labour Ordinances.

(1) The Labour Officers enforce:

- (a) the general safety provisions regarding fencing of machinery, hoists, vessels containing dangerous liquids, the maintenance of floors and stairs, dangerous fumes in confined spaces, inflammable dust, vapours and substances, fire precautions and the registration of boilers and machinery;

- (b) the general health provisions dealing with cleanliness, overcrowding, space, temperature, ventilation, lighting, drainage and sanitary conveniences;
- (c) the general welfare provisions dealing with messrooms, cloakrooms, washing facilities, wholesome drinking water, sitting facilities and first aid arrangements;
- (d) the general provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance (Cap. 220 as subsequently amended) as far as factories are concerned, and
- (e) the provisions of the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Ordinance (Cap. 211) regarding night work of women and young persons employed in industry and minimum age for admission of children to industrial employment.

(2) The female Labour Inspector is in charge of the inspection of quarters of workers housed by employers and the inspection of estate dispensaries and hospitals where these workers are given free medical attention under the provisions of the Labour Ordinance (Cap. 214).

A Safety, Health and Welfare Committee has been appointed and meets from time to time for the discussion of relevant measures.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

Apprenticeship schemes : The Apprenticeship Ordinance, 1946, provides for the regulation of employment of apprentices and, under this Ordinance, the heavy engineering trade, the automobile repairs and the printing industry have been designated.

Apprenticeship Committees meet periodically for the discussion of questions dealing with apprentices and their welfare.

The Employment Registration Bureau, which was opened at the beginning of 1949, is organized in three main centres and ten sub-centres. The Manager of the Bureau is also the Statistician of the Labour Department.

The Employment Branch of the Reabsorption Office, which was responsible for the resettlement of ex-sevicemen, has now been amalgamated with the Employment Registration Bureau. The Bureau has now on its staff two placing officers, three interviewing officers, three travelling interviewing officers and eight clerks.

The purpose of the Bureau is to put employers seeking workers in touch with workers seeking employment. The worker is classified on the basis of an evaluation of all his occupational qualifications

as shown by work-experience, training and personal characteristics; workers may also be trade-tested whenever and wherever necessary and are graded accordingly. Vocational guidance is given to certain categories, especially to demobilised ex-servicemen.

Government department vacancies which are not filled by advertisement and a Board of Selection, are filled by the Employment Registration Bureau.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

There were at the end of the year 60 associations of Trade Unions composed of 26 associations of employees, 9 of employers, 19 of Government Servants and 3 of persons either working for themselves or hiring out their services. The total membership on the rolls is given as 34,392, of which 21,276 are paid-up members. Three associations are in a dormant state.

The most important workers' organisations are :

	<i>No. shown on roll</i>	<i>No. who have ceased to be members</i>	<i>No. of members on 31.12.56</i>
Sugar Industry Staff Employees Association	565	—	565
General Port and Harbour Workers' Union	1,582	200	1,382
Mauritius Government Manual Workers' Union	900	510	390
Artisans and General Workers' Union	1,977	366	1,611
Government Servants' and Employees' Association	2,309	530	1,779
Government Teachers' Union ...	211	61	150
Aided Primary School Teachers' Union	701	299	402
Amalgamated Labourers' Association	12,396	5,563	6,833
Senior Professional Civil Servants' Association	92	12	80
Agricultural Workers' Union ...	7,846	3,896	3,950

The most important employers' organisations are:

	<i>No. of members on 31.12.56</i>
Sugar Producers' Association	23
Federation of Port and Harbour Employers ...	12
Tobacco Producers' Syndicate	56
Planters' Association	220

LEGISLATION

The main legislation affecting labour relations is:—

The Labour Ordinance	Cap. 214
The Labour (Amendment) Ordinance	No. 33 of 1952
The Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Ordinance	Cap. 211, Ordinances No. 43 of 1945, No. 5 of 1952
The Factories Ordinance	No. 42 of 1946
The Shop Hours Ordinance	Cap. 409, Ordinances No. 56 of 1945 and No. 72 of 1946
The Shops (Amendment) Ordinance	No. 9 of 1952
The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance	Cap. 220
The Employment Exchange Ordinance	No. 67 of 1947
The Trade Disputes Ordinance	No. 37 of 1954
The Trade Union Ordinance	No. 36 of 1954
The Apprenticeship Ordinance	No. 13 of 1946
The Recruitment of Workers' Ordinance	Cap. 218
The Emigration Ordinance	Cap. 150
The Emigration Regulations	G. N. 156 of 1951
The Minimum Wages Ordinance	No. 36 of 1950
The Wages Regulation (Printing Trade) Order	G. N. No. 136 of 1952 No. 172 of 1953
The Wages Regulation (Messengers) Order	G. N. No. 4 of 1953
The Wages Regulation (Female Factory Workers) Order	G. N. No. 27 of 1953
The Wages Regulation (Shopping Trade) Order	G. N. No. 77 of 1955

THE EX-SERVICEMEN'S WELFARE FUND COMMITTEE

This committee is responsible for the distribution of approximately Rs. 400,000 annually with the object of resettling ex-servicemen in civil life. Help is limited to those who served in the Forces during the war years, but there are still about 10,000 ex-servicemen who qualify as applicants. Help usually takes the form of providing tools, paying off debts, paying transport to find work.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The following tables give a comparison under the main heads of revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the years ended 30th June, 1939, 1955 and 1956.

REVENUE

Main Head	Year ended 30th June		
	1939 Rs	1955 Rs	1956 Rs
1. Direct Taxes	1,036,451	38,818,586	39,891,799
2. Indirect Taxes	11,411,317	51,715,694	53,938,212
3. Receipts from Public Utilities ...	1,390,767	10,348,783	10,509,185
4. Receipts from Public Services ...	1,082,113	5,094,624	6,494,763
5. Rental of Government Property ...	229,221	674,556	630,308
6. Interest and Royalties	486,474	2,516,724	3,527,071
7. Land Sales	329	—	7,550
8. Colonial Development and Welfare	15,858	1,746,589	5,222,785
9. Development and Welfare	—	6,982,305	20,678,695
10. Repayment of Loans and Advances	2,198,308	3,907,317	2,116,554
TOTAL ...	17,850,838	121,805,178	143,016,922

EXPENDITURE

Main Head	Year ended 30th June		
	1939 Rs	1955 Rs	1956 Rs
I.—PRIOR CHARGES			
1. Public Debt	2,292,014	4,538,435	5,027,277
2. Public Service Pensions	1,695,428	6,464,342	5,646,709
3. Defence	935,903	1,784,045	1,822,451
	4,923,345	12,786,822	12,496,437
II.—GOVERNANCE			
4. Governor	82,659	195,846	193,955
5. Central Administration	88,893	658,145	852,966
6. District Administration	—	183,490	252,896
7. Local Government	—	1,078,729	1,306,468
8. Accountant General	197,112	518,254	525,082
9. Archives	—	103,539	109,111
10. Audit	79,185	254,602	257,623
11. Central Statistical Office	—	164,355	168,278
12. Customs and Excise	—	1,440,173	1,494,382
12a. Customs, Harbour, Port and Marine	613,206	—	—
13. Development Establishment ...	—	927,456	535,698
14. Income Tax	—	392,961	391,603
15. Judicial	402,390	1,227,770	1,210,524
16. Legal	99,564	184,623	213,498
17. Legislature	12,889	400,116	419,249
18. Miscellaneous	1,107,217	1,538,141	1,911,226
19. Police	970,903	5,711,995	5,671,290
20. Printing Office	107,772	624,917	597,237
21. Prisons and Industrial School ...	178,741	1,370,937	1,190,191
22. Registrar General	113,897	273,759	316,447
23. Supplies Control	—	293,312	253,425
24. Public Works and Surveys Establishment	340,007	1,749,021	1,781,310
	4,394,435	19,292,141	19,652,379

III.—SOCIAL SERVICES

25. Co-operative Societies	...	...	—	181,185	198,615
26. Ecclesiastical...	...	...	211,914	380,659	410,769
27. Education	...	...	1,441,412	12,768,610	13,204,053
28. Health	...	...	1,477,202	10,811,716	11,023,254
29. Labour	...	...	770,307	451,997	452,823
30. Mauritius Institute	...	...	17,115	90,418	102,796
31. Public Assistance	...	...	—	7,901,136	8,409,174
32. Social Welfare	...	...	—	554,464	584,672
			3,917,950	33,140,185	34,386,15

IV.—PUBLIC UTILITIES AND SERVICES

34. Agriculture	...	...	542,286	2,363,315	2,470,962
35. Civil Aviation	...	...	—	630,733	419,034
36. Electricity and Telephones	...	...	178,248	1,628,170	1,854,360
37. Fire Services	...	...	—	698,827	804,715
38. Forests	...	...	203,331	2,339,281	2,186,450
39. Granary	...	...	79,421	276,958	266,064
40. Harbour and Quays	...	...	—	1,010,121	1,091,448
41. Mauritius Broadcasting Service and Globe Reuter News Service	...	...	—	310,638	340,071
42. Observatory	...	...	41,543	286,964	292,904
43. Posts and Telegraphs	...	...	322,521	1,641,080	1,750,349
44. Railways	...	...	765,444	6,454,812	6,063,647
			2,132,794	17,640,899	17,540,009

V.—INVESTMENT

45. Public Works Annually Recurrent	1,039,379	6,219,556	6,412,789
TOTAL ORDINARY EXPENDITURE ...	16,407,903	89,079,603	90,487,770
46. Public Works Non-Recurrent ...	228,204	4,787,801	4,932,154
47. Development Works and Projects ...	—	9,353,581	13,304,084
48. Loans and Advances	—	4,350,331	11,490,549
49. Reserves	—	7,500,000	12,500,000
	228,204	25,991,713	42,226,787

DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE

Municipal	...	...	398,317	—	—
Harbour	...	...	143,755	—	—
Industrial School	...	...	34,298	—	—
Emergency Services	...	...	—	—	—
Subventions	...	...	—	—	—
Special Expenditure	...	...	6,788,462	—	—
			7,364,832	—	—
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	...	...	24,000,939	115,071,316	132,714,557

PUBLIC DEBT

The Public Debt of the Colony on the 30th June, 1956, was Rs 99,059,842. Against this liability there was an accumulated Sinking Fund of Rs 5,970,095.

Local loan issues accounted for Rs 23,897,500 of the Public Debt as detailed below:

				Rs
Agricultural Loan (No. 1) 1937	...	...	...	1,620,000
Agricultural Loan (No. 2) 1937	...	...	...	1,600,000
Mauritius Loan 1961	...	...	...	3,157,500
Mauritius Development and Welfare				
Loan 1971-81	...			3,072,000
Development (General Purposes)		Loan 1964-74		14,448,000
		TOTAL	...	23,897,500

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
(omitting Special Funds deposited in the Public Treasury)

LIABILITIES		ASSETS		
	Rs		Rs	Rs
Other Governments	180,257	Advances	...	19,239,429
Deposits	4,578,131	Cash Balance etc.	28,454,183	
Mauritius Development and Welfare Fund	8,903,107	Investments	26,824,126	
Loan Funds unexpended	14,655,486	Joint Colonial Fund	19,386,667	
Reserve Fund	19,500,000		74,664,976	
General Revenue Balance	43,005,670	Deduct: Balances of Special Funds etc. in the hands of the Accountant General	3,081,754	
				71,583,222
TOTAL	90,822,651	TOTAL	...	90,822,651

THE MAIN HEADS OF TAXATION AND
THEIR YIELD

		1954-55	1955-56
Customs :—		Rs	Rs
Import Duties...	...	27,107,069	28,269,160
Export Duties...	...	89,331	66,931
Excise duty on Rum	...	9,765,068	10,292,563
Tobacco Excise	...	4,778,745	5,262,885
Licence Duties	...	4,764,757	4,928,392
Income Tax, (Companies and Bodies Corporate)	...	22,857,807	22,652,660
Income Tax (Others)	...	14,822,458	15,555,197
Tax on Sweepstakes and Lotteries	...	1,279,890	1,382,818

**THE NATIONAL INCOME FOR 1955 WAS CALCULATED BY THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE
TO BE Rs 594,000,000**

Details of calculation are as follows :—

<i>National Product Industrial Origin</i>	<i>Rs (millions)</i>	<i>National Income Distribution</i>	<i>Rs (Millions)</i>	<i>Net National Expenditure Composition</i>	<i>Rs (millions)</i>
1. Agriculture, forestry, hunting, and fishing ...	184 31.0	1. Compensation of em- ployees ...	303 51.0	1. Private consumption ex- penditure on goods and services ...	477 80.3
2. Mining and Quarrying..	—	2. Income from farms, professions and other unincorporated enter- prises received by households ...	113 19.0	2. General Government consumption expendi- ture on goods and services ...	76 12.8
3. Manufacturing ...	133 22.4	3. Income from property received by households and private non-profit institutions ...	111 18.7	3. Net domestic fixed capital formation of private enterprises ...	44 7.4
4. Construction ...	26 4.4	4. Saving of corporations	36 6.1	4. Net domestic fixed capital formation of Government and public enterprises ...	28 4.7
5. Electricity, water and sanitary services ...	11 1.8	5. Direct taxes on corpo- rations ...	24 4.0	5. Net exports of goods and services ...	+12 2.0
6. Transportation, Storage and Communication ...	81 13.6	6. General Government income from property and entrepreneurship ...	15 2.5	6. Net factor income pay- ments from rest of the world ...	+11 +1.9
7. Wholesale and Retail Trade ...	58 9.8	7. Less Interest on public debt ...	-5 -0.8	7. Net National Expendi- ture at Market Prices ...	648 109.1
8. Banking, Insurance and Real Estate ...	7 1.2	8. Less Interest on con- sumers' debt ...	-3 -0.5	8. Less Indirect Taxes ...	-54 -9.1
9. Ownership of dwellings	40 6.7			9. Plus Subsidies ...	—
10. Public Administration	16 2.7				
11. Services ...	51 8.6				
12. Gross Domestic Pro- duct at factor cost ...	607 102.2				
13. Less provision for the consumption of fixed capital ...	-24 -4.0				
14. Net Domestic Product at factor cost ...	583 98.2				
15. Plus Net factor income from the rest of the world ...	+11 +1.8				
16. NET NATIONAL PRO- DUCT AT FACTOR COST..	594 100.0	9. NATIONAL INCOME ..	594 100.0	10. NET NATIONAL EXPEN- DITURE AT FACTOR COST	594 100.0

COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF NATIONAL INCOME GROWTH

<i>Year</i>	<i>National Income Rs million</i>	<i>Increase on 1950 per cent</i>	<i>Resident population June 30th in each year</i>	<i>Actual per capita income Rs</i>	<i>*Real per capita income Rs</i>	<i>Increase or decrease per cent</i>
1950 ...	410	—	466,052	880	880	—
1951 ...	465	13	483,859	961	907	+3·1
1952 ...	518	26	502,075	1,032	852	-6·1
1953 ...	583	42	516,525	1,129	918	+7·7
1954 ...	576	40	530,461	1,086	890	-3·1
1955 ...	594	45	549,094	1,082	880	-1·1

CUSTOMS TARIFF

The present tariff, which was brought into force by the Customs Tariff Ordinance (No. 26 of 1954), is based on the Standard International Trade Classification. The first schedule to this tariff comprises three main sections: import duties, exemptions, and export duties. Provision is made for the imposition of a preferential tariff on goods produced or manufactured in the United Kingdom and certain other territories, but admission of the goods to preference is dependent on the production of supporting evidence including prescribed certificates of origin and value. In the absence of this information, the general tariff rate is charged.

Export duties are levied on sugar and molasses, and in addition there are small duties imposed on goods exported from bond, goods in transit, and goods reshipped after being landed from distressed vessels.

PACKAGE TAX

A package tax is levied under the Package Tax Ordinance (No. 32 of 1951) on all goods shown in the first schedule thereof, imported and landed at any port in the Colony. This tax is levied at variable low rates.

Exemptions are provided for in the second schedule to the Ordinance.

EXCISE DUTIES

Excise duties are leviable on Colonial spirits (rum), country liquor (Mauritius Fruit Wine), tobacco, matches, spirits used in the manufacture of denatured spirits (except for power purposes), vinegar, tinctures and drugs, and perfumed spirits. The consumption of rum during the year showed a small decrease over the previous year. The revenue collected in respect of country liquor continued to show a slight increase over previous years.

*i.e. income reduced to constant prices (1950).

STAMP DUTIES

Stamp duties are of three kinds:

Schedule "A" to the Stamps Ordinance (Cap. 160), specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to a duty in proportion to the size of paper used. The tariff ranges from Re 0.30 cs. to Rs 1.80 cs.

Schedule "B" specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to a fixed stamp duty. The amounts vary from Re 0.10 cs. to Rs. 18.00.

Schedule "C" specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to an *ad valorem* duty. These include Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Policies of Insurance, Debentures. The duties are mainly on a sliding scale.

The Stamp Duties collected in respect of impressed paper during the financial year 1955-56 amounted to Rs 638,134.

INCOME TAX

Income Tax is imposed by the provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance, (No. 84 of 1950), as subsequently amended.

The following schedule shows the rates of tax payable by individuals for the year of assessment 1956-57:

		Chargeable Income		Rate of Tax
		Rs		cs
For every rupee	of the first	5,000	...	10
For every rupee	of the next	5,000	...	15
do.	do.	5,000	...	20
do.	do.	5,000	...	30
do.	do.	5,000	...	40
do.	do.	10,000	...	50
do.	do.	15,000	...	60
do.	do.	25,000	...	70
do.	do.	25,000	...	75
Remainder of the chargeable income		...		80

The rate of tax applicable to companies is 40 per cent of the amount of chargeable income.

Collections in the year 1955-56 amounted to Rs 38,207,857 as compared with Rs 37,680,265 in 1954-55.

DEATH DUTY

The system of assessing succession duties was revised in 1956 and with effect from the 1st July death duty is payable on the value of the property accruing to each beneficiary at a rate dependent upon the degree of relationship to the deceased and the net value of such property, without aggregation of the whole estate.

The duty collected during 1956 amounted to Rs 1,433,213 as compared with Rs 577,651 in 1955.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES FINANCES

The undermentioned table gives comparative figures of revenue and expenditure of the four urban local authorities for the last financial year:—

<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Revenue Rs</i>	<i>Expenditure Rs</i>
Municipality of Port Louis	1956	2,566,755	2,467,241
Town Council of Beau Bassin—Rose Hill (excluding Housing Scheme) ...	1955-56	876,077	839,318
Town Council of Quatre Bornes (excluding Housing Scheme) ...	1955-56	341,432	362,031
Town Council of Curepipe (excluding Housing Scheme)	1955-56	937,090	817,472

DISTRICT AND VILLAGE COUNCILS

The three District Councils established under Ordinance No. 76 of 1951 and the recently set up District Administration for Plaines Wilhems—Black River which started functioning in September, 1955, receive subsidies and grants from the Government which are partly allocated to the Village Councils, according to estimates approved by the District Councils and the District Administration. In addition to any taxation which may be imposed by the Village Councils, the District Councils have the right to levy taxes which do not apply to any particular village, such as advertisement and placard tax and entertainment tax. The total estimates of expenditure for the existing 99 Village Councils amounted to approximately Rs 410,516. Government grants to the District Council and the District Administration, including subsidies for scavenging and roads, totalled Rs 799,805. Revenue from entertainment tax totalled Rs 71,252.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

CURRENCY

The local unit of currency is the Mauritius Rupee which is subdivided into 100 cents. The rupee is equivalent to 1s. 6d. sterling.

The notes in circulation are of denominations of Rs 25, Rs 10 and Rs 5. There is in addition a Rs 1,000 note which is legal tender only between the local banks and the Government.

Amendments to the Mauritius Currency Notes Regulations, 1938, were published as Government Notice No. 64 of 1956, shortening the procedure for the destruction of notes of the value of Rs 10 and under.

The coins in circulation are the following:

Cupro-Nickel: One Rupee, Half-Rupee, Quarter-Rupee and Ten Cents.

Bronze: 5 cents, 2 cents and 1 cent.

The value of currency in circulation for the last three financial years is given hereunder—:

		30th June, 1954	30th June, 1955	30th June, 1956
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Notes	...	50,804,000	50,689,000	48,550,000
Coins	...	3,301,400	3,419,400	3,503,000
TOTAL	...	54,105,400	54,108,400	52,053,000

LOCAL BANKS

Three trading banks operate in Mauritius: The Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd., The Mercantile Bank of India Ltd. and Barclays Bank D.C.O.

Savings bank facilities are provided by the Post Office Savings Bank, The Mauritius Agricultural Bank, The Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd., Barclays Bank D.C.O. and The Mercantile Bank of India Ltd.

Long-term loans for agricultural and housing purposes are provided by the Mauritius Agricultural Bank, while Barclays Overseas Development Corporation Limited undertakes medium-term finance on a commercial basis for sound development projects of all kinds. There is however a lack of financial institutions specialising in long-term loans to individual borrowers for such purposes as housing, although loans against mortgages are of course obtainable from private sources. The Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank Ltd. provides finance on a seasonal basis for the cultivation requirements of the co-operative credit movement. The Government also provides assistance to local industry in the form of medium term loans.

The Mauritius Commercial Bank was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1838 with a capital of Rs 2,000,000, which was increased in 1948 to Rs 3,000,000. The Bank was registered as a Limited Liability Company in August, 1955. The Bank's Head Office is in Port Louis with branches at Curepipe, Rose Hill and Mahebourg. Its London agents are Lloyds Bank Limited. It has correspondents all over the world and is able to offer a complete banking service. The total deposits at the Head Office and its branches as at the 31st December, 1956, amounted to Rs 61,813,599 and reserves stood at Rs 4,163,418.

The Mercantile Bank of India Ltd. took over the business of the Bank of Mauritius Ltd. on the 31st May, 1916. The paid-up capital of the Bank at the 31st December, 1956, was £1,470,000; reserve funds amounted to £2,000,000. Through its Head Office in London and its branches throughout India, Malaya and the Far East, the Mercantile Bank of India Ltd. is able to offer comprehensive banking facilities to the people of Mauritius.

Barclays Bank D.C.O. has its Head Office in London and over 1,000 branches in Africa, the Mediterranean area, the Carribean area, England, New York and Hamburg, with correspondents in all other important centres. The paid-up capital of the Bank was £12,932,250 as at the 30th September, 1956, and the Reserve Fund was £9,000,000. On the same date total deposits were £537,021,908. The Bank, which is affiliated with Barclays Bank Ltd., was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1836 as the Colonial Bank and reincorporated by Act of Parliament in 1925; the name was then changed to Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) which amalgamated with the Anglo-Egyptian Bank Ltd. and the National Bank of South Africa Ltd. The Port Louis, Mauritius, branch was established by the last-named Bank in December, 1919, and was taken over by Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) following the amalgamation. The name of the Bank was changed to Barclays Bank D.C.O. in 1954. A branch of the Bank was opened at Vacoas in February, 1956. The Bank acts as Agent for Barclays Overseas Development Corporation Ltd., which was formed to assist in the economic development of territories in which the Bank operates and which had a paid-up capital of £5,000,000 on the 30th September, 1956.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK

The Post Office Savings Bank is operated by the Posts and Telegraphs Department. At the 30th June, 1956, the Bank had 69,464 active accounts and 20,829 dormant accounts with a balance

due to depositors of Rs 27,392,394. Savings Bank business is transacted at 31 Post Offices. During 1956, transactions amounted in number and value to 60,733 deposits totalling Rs 14,222,145 and 81,777 withdrawals totalling Rs 17,073,230. Accounts are regarded as dormant if no transaction takes place for a period of twenty years.

THE MAURITIUS AGRICULTURAL BANK

The Mauritius Agricultural Bank was established by Ordinance No. 1 of 1936 as a "body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal . . . for the purpose of making long-term loans for agricultural needs."

It started its activities in 1937 with a capital of Rs 10,000,000 which was raised by loans, locally and overseas, by Government. Of this amount Rs 380,000 has been reimbursed by the Bank which had also contributed at the 31st December, 1956, Rs 1,309,440 to a sinking fund.

The first change in the constitution of the Bank occurred in 1940 when the minimum for loans (which had been Rs 5,000) was abolished and the Bank was authorised to draw Bills on the Treasury to finance loans for amounts under Rs 5,000.

The Mauritius Economic Commission (1948) recommended that the Bank's capital be increased and the scope of its activities extended to meet the needs of industrial as well as agricultural enterprises. Legislation was passed to this effect and to authorise the Bank to make long-term loans for housing (Ordinance No. 68 of 1950).

In 1949 the Bank had been authorised to raise Rs 3,000,000 from the public by the sale of short-term bills. By Ordinance No. 68 of 1950 it was further empowered:

- (a) to raise funds from the public by the issue of long-term debentures, by the issue of subscription debentures payable monthly and quarterly and by accepting fixed deposits for 12-36 months and savings deposits;
- (b) to arrange long-term loans and bank overdrafts.

One of the objects of authorising the Bank to raise funds from the public was to encourage saving in the Colony and it was hoped that the wide choice of investments would prove attractive. At the 31st December, 1956, there were:

1,765 Savings Accounts for Rs 1,771,697

294 Fixed Deposit Accounts for 2,155,079

193 Accounts for Subscription Debentures involving monthly payments of Rs 15,760 and quarterly payments of Rs 465

At the 31st December, 1956, the Bank had paid out Rs 50,921,872 in loans as follows:

	Rs
For agriculture	40,421,255
For housing	10,220,627
For industry	279,990
TOTAL ...	50,921,872

The Bank has been entrusted with the management of the loans granted under the Hurricane Loan Ordinance (1945), the Rehabilitation of Factories and Rolling Stock Ordinance (1949), and the Aloe Fibre Industry (Development) Ordinance (1952). The total amount outstanding on its books due by borrowers at the 31st December, 1956, was Rs 47,489,243, of which Rs 34,131,479 consisted of Agricultural Bank loans proper (including Rs 8,328,778 for housing loans), Rs 9,662,414 due by borrowers under the 1945 Hurricane Loan Ordinance, Rs 3,437,345 due by borrowers under the Rehabilitation of Factories and Rolling Stock Ordinance and Rs 258,005 due by borrowers under the Aloe Fibre Industry (Development) Ordinance.

The demand for loans since 1950 has been far in excess of the resources of the Bank.

The following is a summary of the Bank's balance sheet as at the 31st December, 1956:

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
	Rs		Rs
Mauritius Government ...	10,604,000	Loans	34,131,479
Debentures and Sub- Debentures	15,779,854	Cash	1,687,221
Deposits	6,176,776	Investments	1,102,758
Short-term Bills	2,895,945	Other Assets	1,301,752
Internal A/cs and other liabilities	342,215	Sinking Fund Contribu- tions	1,309,440
Sinking Fund	1,309,440		39,532,650
Reserves and Profit and Loss A/c	2,424,420		
	39,532,650	Hurricane Loan 1945 ...	9,662,414
Funds administered on behalf of the Colonial Government	13,357,764	Rehabilitation Loans ...	3,437,345
		Aloe Fibre Industry Loans	258,005
TOTAL ...	52,890,414		52,890,414

BANKING STATISTICS

NUMBER OF REPORTING BANKS : 4

Figures for quarter ended 31st December, 1956

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
	Rs (thousand)		Rs (thousand)
1. Notes in circulation	...	1. Cash	...
2. Deposits :—	...	2. Balances due by other banks in the Colony	6,442
(a) Demand	...	3. Balances due from banks abroad	3,863
(b) Time	99,870	4. Loans and advances :—	77,438
(c) Savings	18,722	(a) Primary production (including processing of primary products)	...
3. Balances due to :—	7,032	(b) Other industries (including Commerce, Transport and Distribution)	36,769
(a) Other banks in the Colony	...	(c) Other advances	15,491
(b) Banks abroad	2,579	5. Investments :—	28,412
4. Other liabilities etc.,	1,182	(a) Local	...
	50,552	(b) Other	3,042
	...	6. Other Assets	2,667
	...		5,805
TOTAL LIABILITIES	179,937	TOTAL ASSETS	179,937

BANK RATES

The buying and selling rates for telegraphic transfers were at the end of 1956 roughly as under:

	<i>Buying</i>		<i>Selling</i>	
BRITISH STERLING				
Under £ 5,000	...	Rs 13.25 per £ 1	...	Rs 13.43 per £ 1
£ 5,000 and over	...	Rs 13.26 „	...	Rs 13.40 „
CANADIAN DOLLARS	...	Rs 4.96 per \$ 1 ...	...	Rs 5.05 per \$ 1
U.S.A. DOLLARS	...	Rs 4.72½ per \$ 1	...	Rs 4.82 per \$ 1
SOUTH AFRICAN POUNDS				
Under £ 5,000	...	Rs 13.20 per £ 1	...	Rs 13.45 per £ 1
£ 5,000 and over	...	Rs 13.20 „	...	Rs 13.42 „
AUSTRALIAN POUNDS	...	Rs 10.50—10.60 per £1	...	Rs 10.85 per £ 1
FRENCH FRANCS				
France	...	Rs 1.25 per 100 francs	...	Rs 1.38 per 100 francs
C.F.A.	...	Rs 2.50 per 100 francs	...	Rs 2.78 „
OTHER CURRENCIES				
India	...	At par	...	1 % premium
E. Africa	...	Rs 65.50 per 100 shs	...	Rs 67.15 per 100 shs.

The control of foreign exchange was maintained in 1956 under the Mauritius Exchange Control Ordinance, 1951, which was enacted on the lines of the United Kingdom Exchange Control Act, 1947, and thus ensures similarity of practice in exchange control matters in the Scheduled Territories.

Chapter 5 : Commerce

The commerce of the Colony depends almost entirely on the sugar crop which in 1956 yielded 571,848 metric tons as compared with 533,261 metric tons in 1955. High degree alcohol, a by-product of sugar, is now produced mainly for local consumption, the quantity exported being negligible. The exportation of molasses, another by-product of sugar, was 52,694 metric tons in 1956 against 53,957 metric tons in 1955 and 89,912 metric tons in 1954.

A small part of the Colony's demand for foodstuffs is met by local production, namely, meat, sugar, salt, tea, fruit and vegetables, fish (fresh and dried) and coconut oil. Local industries produce cigarettes, matches, aloe fibre bags for sugar, rum and country liquor. The bulk of the needs of the Colony are met by importations from other countries.

The imports of rice, the staple food of the Colony, after reaching the unusually high figure of 58,171 metric tons in 1955 fell to 45,101 metric tons in 1956. Frozen meat was imported from Australia, beef on the hoof from Madagascar and considerable quantities of foodstuffs from the United Kingdom and the Union of South Africa.

The United Kingdom continues to be the principal source of supply for manufactured goods such as textiles, apparel, machinery, motor vehicles, hardware and electrical goods. Large quantities of cotton piece goods are received from India and large supplies of general merchandise are imported from Hong Kong. There was a considerable rise in the imports of fertilizers: 52,141 metric tons valued at Rs 16,605,122 were imported in 1956 in comparison with 36,790 metric tons valued at Rs 12,270,800 in 1955. The chief source of supply of fertilizers was Belgium, from which country also was imported a considerable quantity of iron and steel goods. The Colony's imports from Belgium consequently rose from Rs 5,737,316 in 1955 to Rs 12,789,745 in 1956.

DIRECTION OF EXPORT TRADE

<i>Preferential Tariff Countries</i>	1954 Rs	1955 Rs	1956 Rs
United Kingdom	197,496,905	199,959,930	223,805,651
Aden	1,333	1,300	—
Australia and New Zealand ...	11,596	188,480	764,859
British East Africa	285,318	309,364	1,087,157
Canada	39,975,126	40,969,034	35,574,894
Ceylon	18,384,619	7	5,936,594
Hong Kong	10,936	41,539	91,071
India	5,461	4,162	12,831
Malaya (including Singapore) ...	14,981	258,776	2,308,029
Seychelles	427,294	544,441	437,398
Southern Rhodesia	20	11,681	14,452
Union of South Africa	503,247	256,012	157,845
Other Preferential Tariff Countries	67,355	30,093	14,893
TOTAL ...	257,184,191	242,574,819	270,205,674
<i>General Tariff Countries</i>			
Belgium	465	37,387	24,618
France	96,832	137,763	92,175
Germany	8,810	20,043	157,859
Holland	57,656	112,836	657,445
Italy	223,520	133	83,202
Madagascar	518,175	389,115	552,379
Portuguese East Africa	350	—	—
Reunion	468,845	372,252	467,255
Sweden	—	56	—
United States of America ...	1,518,997	1,158,005	33,063
Other General Tariff Countries ...	32,666	92,153	33,204
TOTAL ...	2,926,316	2,319,743	2,101,200
Sugar Quota Certificates ...	6,855,174	6,872,333	6,928,000
GRAND TOTAL OF EXPORTS ...	266,965,681	251,766,895	279,234,874

DIRECTION OF IMPORT TRADE

<i>Preferential Tariff Countries</i>	1954 Rs	1955 Rs	1956 Rs
United Kingdom	80,159,862	100,635,190	76,177,340
Aden	770,258	2,713,390	1,459,232
Australia and New Zealand ...	16,728,904	17,721,084	13,900,941
Bahrein	1,977,125	1,042,180	2,443,132
British East Africa	3,526,107	1,126,299	3,940,220
British West Indies	305,330	441,784	221,344
Burma	21,798,689	27,913,876	15,614,452
Canada	4,131	15,903	529,694
Ceylon	240,836	223,285	145,716
Cyprus	175,514	97,982	39,400
Carried over ...	125,686,756	151,930,973	114,471,471

DIRECTION OF IMPORT TRADE—*continued*

<i>Preferential Tariff Countries</i>				1954 Rs	1955 Rs	1956 Rs
<i>Brought forward ...</i>				125,686,756	151,930,973	114,471,471
Eire	...	...	...	42,623	33,046	24,077
Hong Kong	...	...	...	3,274,086	4,731,720	3,739,069
India	...	...	...	12,794,376	25,540,948	23,422,530
Malaya (including Singapore)	...	...	...	4,223,738	4,488,794	3,590,251
Pakistan	...	...	...	32,785	21,429	1,215,201
Southern Rhodesia	...	...	...	751,059	509,339	667,034
Seychelles	...	...	...	348,988	264,661	409,187
Sudan	...	...	...	2,237,601	579,662	—
Union of South Africa	...	...	...	12,694,358	10,694,327	13,628,481
<i>Other Preferential Tariff Countries</i>				9,008	31,469	61,609
TOTAL				159,857,777	198,246,706	161,228,913
<i>General Tariff Countries</i>						
Belgium	...	...	...	3,120,206	5,737,316	12,789,745
Chile	...	...	...	1,344,169	29	2,297,016
Czechoslovakia	...	...	...	383,981	737,987	693,273
Denmark	...	...	...	161,641	177,195	389,146
Ethiopia	...	...	...	870,928	388,973	762,865
France	...	...	...	9,425,942	10,659,138	8,070,945
Germany (Western)	...	...	...	5,756,056	6,766,957	10,845,056
Holland	...	...	...	2,361,546	2,229,574	2,488,818
Hungary	...	...	...	24,273	22,940	106,847
Iran	...	...	...	43,602	2,323,534	5,658,754
Italy (including Sicily)	...	...	...	4,098,231	959,927	1,848,350
Japan	...	...	...	1,403,834	3,240,917	2,665,911
Luxembourg	...	...	...	212,066	226,646	159,456
Madagascar	...	...	...	1,624,775	2,631,801	2,880,113
Morocco	...	...	...	221,691	165,743	527,779
Netherlands East Indies	...	...	...	55,153	—	—
Netherlands West Indies	...	...	...	1,569,799	1,179,163	227,515
Norway	...	...	...	77,184	176,925	187,246
Poland	...	...	...	77,313	215,675	270,789
Portugal	...	...	...	574,833	794,820	534,568
Portuguese East Africa	...	...	...	1,963,696	2,036,759	2,193,766
Russia	...	...	...	74	2,919	12,758
Saudi Arabia	...	...	...	69,023	15,874	354,609
Siam	...	...	...	10,714,850	2,190,902	1,846,270
Spain	...	...	...	163,269	206,434	124,549
Sudan	...	...	...	2,237,601	579,662	935,071
Sweden	...	...	...	912,532	994,232	750,972
Switzerland	...	...	...	924,206	1,042,179	832,026
U. S. America	...	...	...	2,778,930	4,622,142	4,312,626
Yugoslavia	...	...	...	911	62	806
<i>Other General Tariff Countries</i>				1,187,042	1,706,168	2,024,371
TOTAL				54,359,357	52,032,603	66,792,016
BAGGAGE				142,221	192,938	128,553
GRAND TOTAL OF IMPORTS				214,359,355	250,472,247	228,149,482

TRADE FIGURES

39

I—IMPORTS*

Principal Imports	1954			1955			1956		
	Total=Rs. 214,359,355			Total=Rs. 250,472,247			Total=Rs. 228,149,482		
	Quantity	C.I.F. Value		Quantity	C.I.F. Value		Quantity	C.I.F. Value	Main Country of Supply
Rice	37,980 M. Tons	Rs. 31,966,229	...	58,171 M. Tons	Rs. 40,878,599	...	45,101 M. Tons	Rs. 27,364,139	Burma, India and Siam.
Wheaten flour	10,437 "	10,091,687	...	23,089 "	10,310,297	...	17,012 "	6,463,583	Australia.
Other grain and grain products	8,340 "	4,914,072	...	9,802 "	5,455,321	...	7,950 "	5,424,423	Australia, India, Union of South Africa, Ethiopia.
Cattle and meat	—	3,341,489	...	—	3,975,050	...	—	4,124,671	Madagascar (cattle) and Australia (Meat).
Edible oils and fats	5,389 "	9,150,008	...	4,738 "	7,338,010	...	5,281 "	8,805,960	Uganda, Portuguese East Africa, India, Sudan and United Kingdom.
Beverages	—	3,106,413	...	—	3,111,732	...	—	2,946,963	United Kingdom, France, Union of South Africa, Holland and Malaya.
Coal	26,022 "	1,880,813	...	9,181 "	841,613	...	19,376 "	1,531,753	Union of South Africa and Kenya.
Petroleum products	—	10,224,876	...	—	9,315,889	...	—	12,521,851	Iran, Bahrain, Aden, and Union of South Africa.
Wood and wood manufactures	—	4,580,837	...	—	5,194,205	...	—	4,848,473	Malaya (including Singapore) and Siam.
Gunny bags	2,125,701 No.	2,719,631	...	1,344,615 No.	1,804,360	...	3,245,253 No.	3,885,059	India and Pakistan.
Cotton piece goods	7,329,364 sq. ms.	9,705,100	...	8,194,399 sq. ms.	10,437,672	...	6,545,202 sq. ms.	8,467,208	United Kingdom, India, Japan and Hong Kong.
Silk piece goods	2,193,752 "	4,180,586	...	2,288,516 "	4,188,652	...	2,213,935 "	3,753,162	United Kingdom, Japan, India and Hong Kong.
Woolen piece goods	160,969 "	1,955,264	...	215,256 "	2,577,514	...	160,008 "	1,872,371	United Kingdom.
Vehicles:—									
(1) Road:—									
(a) Motor cars	404 No.	2,573,514	...	959 No.	6,193,874	...	471 No.	3,280,655	United Kingdom, Canada and Germany.
(b) Other	—	5,358,867	...	—	5,858,377	...	—	4,643,282	United Kingdom.
(2) Railway and tramway locomotives and accessories	—	806,939	...	—	434,803	...	—	913,473	United Kingdom and Germany.
(3) Ships, aircraft and accessories	—	76,996	...	—	1,532,345	...	—	4,110,901	Germany, United Kingdom and United States of America.
Cement	40,209 M. Tons	5,677,020	...	46,376 M. Tons	6,434,428	...	38,135 M. Tons	5,365,909	United Kingdom and Belgium.
Machinery	2,459 "	12,839,612	...	3,117 "	15,708,926	...	2,052 "	10,804,254	United Kingdom, France, United States of America and Germany.
Electrical goods	—	3,360,050	...	—	8,087,100	...	—	8,022,110	United Kingdom, Germany, Holland, United States of America and France.
Iron and steel goods	15,474 "	17,154,341	...	15,596 "	17,893,318	...	11,692 "	14,003,818	United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, France, Australia and Japan.
Manures and Fertilizers	31,543 "	9,474,065	...	36,790 "	12,270,800	...	52,141 "	16,605,122	Belgium, Chile, Germany, France and Italy.
Paper and paper manufactures	1,690 "	2,601,418	...	1,298 "	2,503,062	...	1,134 "	2,538,186	United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden, Czechoslovakia and India.

* Excluding bullion and specie valued at Rs 698,845 in 1954, and Rs 99,996 in 1955 and Rs 74,336 in 1956.

II.—Exports*

	1954	1955	1956
	Rs	Rs	Rs
(a) Domestic Exports ...	257,558,856	241,587,467	268,233,719
(b) Sugar Quota Certificates ...	6,855,174	6,872,333	6,928,000
(c) Re-Exports ...	2,551,651	3,307,095	4,073,155
TOTAL EXPORTS	266,965,681	251,766,895	279,234,874

Principal Exports	1954			1955			1956			Main Countries of Destination
	Quantity	F.O.B. Value Rs		Quantity	F.O.B. Value Rs		Quantity	F.O.B. Value Rs		
Sugar	...	502,404 M. Tons	268,908,757†	475,358 M. Tons	244,205,676†	539,978 M. Tons	270,463,959†	United Kingdom, Canada, Ceylon, Malaya, Tanganyika and Seychelles.		
Molasses	...	89,912 "	4,511,647	53,957 "	2,941,206	52,694 "	3,403,043	United Kingdom, Holland, and New Zealand.		
Rum	...	284 Hectols	25,403	295 Hectols	23,057	255 Hectols	21,171	Hong Kong & Seychelles.		
Aloe Fibre	...	60 M. Tons	25,007	186 M. Tons	99,565	99 M. Tons	49,811	Belgium, Germany and France.		
Tea	...	113 "	591,769	176 "	944,618	152 "	818,422	United Kingdom, Union of South Africa and France.		

*Exports of bullion and specie in 1954 : Rs 108,000 ; in 1955 : Nil ; in 1956 : Rs 60,000.

†Including Value of Sugar Quota Certificates.

growth of population, leading to the inflation of land values. Grouping of estates into companies has checked fragmentation for the bulk of the land, although for a time speculation led to a system of parcelling known as "morcellement" when large tracts of land were purchased and sold again in numerous small lots.

LAND TENURE

The Island was uninhabited when first colonized. Its original permanent settlers were the French who, through the grant of concessions, became the original freehold owners of all the land except Crown lands. At present, apart from Crown lands, including Crown forests and the "Pas Géométriques" which total 83,000 acres, the land is owned in large or small lots by all sections of the community. Roughly 75 per cent is owned by companies and private estates, the remainder being the property of the Indo-Mauritian section of the population. In addition to freehold tenure, land is also held leasehold and on share-cropping agreements.

Leasehold tenure is practised to a limited extent on privately-owned lands and on Crown lands. In the case of Crown lands, leasing is generally by auction to the highest bidder, but it may also be by contract, leases varying from 3 to 30 years with security of tenure to satisfactory tenants. Various types of share-cropping in the form of 'métayage' exist.

RENTING SYSTEM

Rentals are either cash, crop-sharing or "Taungya". Cash rentals are payable monthly, quarterly or annually; in crop-sharing the proportion of the crop handed over as rental varies according to circumstances and the nature of the crop; under the "Taungya" system, which is adopted in tree plantations, especially in Crown forest areas, the tenant is permitted to grow vegetables or annual crops between the young trees provided he keeps the trees clear of weeds and fills up the gaps. This is a temporary system, as cultivation is discontinued as soon as the trees are developed.

LAND AND WATER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

These include provision for:

- (a) increased reservoir construction both for domestic and irrigation purposes, the latter leading to increased cultivation of land;
- (b) increased generation of electrical power.

LAND SETTLEMENT

About 70 years ago the process of parcelling land known as "morcellement", referred to above, began. In the years which followed it gained momentum until some thirty years ago, when after a last short spurt, it practically ceased to operate, except occasionally at irregular intervals. This has resulted in the automatic, if unorganized, settlement on the land of a large number of peasant proprietors who, by thrift, became owners of their own plots of land in many localities of the Island. In recent years organized settlement was attempted and a pilot scheme was put under way. The first settlement at "Petit Sable" worked quite satisfactorily in the past year. There are 10 residential small-holdings, 40 allotments and 85 onion plots. Small-holders are allowed to plant half of their plots with sugarcane, which last year gave very satisfactory yields. The cooperative credit society into which the tenants formed themselves functioned smoothly.

Nineteen tenants are established at Richelieu. At Terre Rouge, over an area of 300 acres cleared in 1954, 102 tenants are now established.

There are no laws relating specifically to settlement, but where suitable Crown land is not available in any area, Government can use compulsory powers to acquire land under the Land Acquisition Ordinance (No. 77 of 1952).

AGRICULTURE

Department of Agriculture

The permanent and pensionable staff of the Department numbers 249 as follows:

<i>Staff as at 31st December, 1956</i>							
<i>Division</i>						<i>Present staff</i>	<i>No. of Vacancies</i>
Administrative Division	...	...	...	...	...	19	—
Agricultural Division	...	...	...	...	...	50	1
Livestock Division	...	...	...	...	...	41	2
Tea Research Division	...	...	...	...	...	14	—
Plant Pathology Division	...	...	...	...	...	6	—
Entomological Division	...	...	...	...	...	9	3
Agricultural Chemistry Division	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
Engineering Division	...	...	...	...	...	7	1
Central Board Division	...	...	...	...	...	14	2
Agricultural College Division	...	...	...	...	...	15	2
Rodrigues Division (attached to Agricultural Division)	...	...	...	...	...	7	—
Fisheries Division	...	...	...	...	...	63	—
TOTAL						249	11

The policy of the Department of Agriculture is to promote the most efficient use of all lands available for and capable of cultivation and to foster the most efficient production of livestock and livestock products.

The basis of Mauritius agriculture is sugarcane which covers most of the available arable land. But there are areas in certain parts of the Island which are not specially suited for sugarcane and these are under close study for the development of other crops such as tea, fibre and pasture, which fit particularly well into the ecological picture: tea and grass in the high rainfall zone, fibre and fodder in the drier regions. Tobacco, now a well-established secondary industry producing for local consumption only, is also catered for. In addition to crops, the Department is actively engaged in the improvement of cattle, mainly with the object of increasing the Island's milk production. Attention is given also to the improvement of small stock and of poultry.

The attainment of greater self-sufficiency in foodcrops, vegetables and fruits is also part of the agricultural policy, although there are definite limitations in this direction.

The Board of Agriculture, Fisheries and Natural Resources studies all matters of policy and makes recommendations.

Sugar

Mauritius is naturally best adapted for the production of sugar which is the main staple of the Island. The whole of the production, with the exception of some 20,000 tons consumed locally, is exported mainly to the United Kingdom.

In 1956 the production of sugar amounted to 571,848 metric tons obtained from an harvested area of about 177,000 acres. The average annual production of the preceding three years was 514,800 tons. The average yield of cane per acre over the whole Island was about 26 tons. Sugar extraction was 12.93 per cent as compared to 12.61 in 1955. The production of sugar per acre was approximately 3.23 tons which is more than the previous record by about 0.17 ton.

Although a considerable proportion of cane lands is under peasant ownership, mostly Indo-Mauritian, the bulk of the sugar is produced on the plantation scale. The larger plantations with factories produced about 59 per cent of the total crop. The smaller peasant owners, some 15,000 of whom cultivate altogether about 19 per cent of the land under cane, often work their land with the

assistance of their families, employing extraneous labour at peak times such as at planting and when harvesting. Many of these small planters have grouped themselves into cooperative societies for the purpose of consigning their canes to factories.

The cane is milled in 26 factories which, for the most part, are company owned.

The whole of the sugar produced is marketed by the Mauritius Sugar Syndicate. Since the War the price of Commonwealth sugar has been fixed year by year by agreement with the United Kingdom Government. In 1956 the conditions of the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement continued to be applied, whereby the United Kingdom undertook to purchase 351,000 long tons of Mauritius sugar at the same price as in 1955, the balance of the crop being available for sale at world market prices.

A considerable part of the available balance for sale on the open market was exported to Canada.

The Commonwealth Sugar Agreement has been extended for a further year and will now run to the end of 1963.

Locally, canes are purchased by factories on the basis of two-thirds of the extraction going to the grower under contracts which are subject to the control of the Central Board which functions as part of the organisation of the Department of Agriculture.

One of the major by-products of the sugar industry, alcohol, is produced in 3 distilleries. The production of alcohol amounted to 1,915,703 litres (94° G.L.) of which 25,480 litres were exported. 52,694 metric tons of molasses, another by-product of sugar manufacture, were also exported.

Industrial Crops

Three other crops are grown industrially, but on a small scale compared with sugarcane. These are tea, tobacco and 'aloe' fibre.

Tea

The Colony's total production of black tea for the year under review amounted to 1,538,293 English pounds, and 697 pounds of green tea were also produced. The black tea figure shows an increase of 196,974 pounds over that of the previous year. This is largely attributable to the maturing or coming into bearing of tea recently planted.

Exports, mainly to the United Kingdom, amounted to 335,365 pounds—as against 387,167 pounds in 1955 and 249,673 pounds in 1954. The internal market is substantial and absorbed 1,202,000 pounds of tea.

With an average in bearing of 2,380 acres, the Colony's average yield per acre amounted to 646.6 pounds of made tea, compared with 665.1 pounds in 1955 and 510 pounds in 1954. Yields well in excess of 1,000 pounds per acre were, however, recorded in respect of young tea in its fifth year. It is considered that heavy crops will, in due course, be recorded in respect of hedge-planted tea of approved strains now being established. Of the bearing acreage, some 1,065 acres are owned by non-manufacturing planters and small holders, whilst about 107 acres are situated on Government properties. The remainder is the property of manufacturing estates.

The manufacturing estates comprise five self-contained properties, of which the largest has 800 acres under tea. All five factories have been modernised in recent years, and two have undertaken construction of extension projects during the year under review.

The Government has encouraged the development of tea as a secondary industry during recent years, and an administrative section has been established with a small specialist staff. The Government has also established a small experimental station of some 70 acres under tea and owns a plantation of about 200 acres in the Midlands valley, as well as seed-gardens.

The development of the tea industry in Mauritius is provided for in the Capital Expenditure Programme 1955-1960.

Tobacco

Tobacco was grown on 719 acres in 1956, an increase of 210 acres as compared with 1955; most of this area was under the variety Amarello, the remainder being under flue-cured Virginian varieties. Production, which was not affected by any factor of exceptional character, reached 404,605 kilos.

Tobacco is entirely grown in small plots, for the most part by Indian peasant cultivators. None of the tobacco is exported. On the contrary, a certain quantity—about 30 per cent—of Virginian flue-cured leaf is imported for admixture with local leaf for the manufacture of the better type of cigarette. Cigarettes of lower grades are made entirely of local Amarello leaf. Owing to soil and climate characteristics Mauritius is not likely to produce flue-cured Virginian tobacco of sufficiently good colour and aroma for export purposes.

The area annually grown is determined by the Tobacco Board, an officially constituted body, on which sit representatives of the various interests concerned. Closely connected with it is the Tobacco Warehouse which receives, grades, processes, bales, stores and sells

all the tobacco produced in the Colony. Producers received on the average Rs 4.74 per kilo of flue-cured Amarello and Rs 5.59 per kilo of Virginian flue-cured tobacco; air-cured leaf sold at Rs 2.44 per kilo.

Fibre

Fibre is produced in Mauritius mainly from the *Furcraea Gigantea* plant, also known as "Mauritian Hemp" or "Aloe". It is a hard leaf fibre resembling sisal which is also grown to some extent. *Furcraea* is mostly in wild growing plantations, mainly along the drier coastal belt. The yield of a wild plantation is roughly reckoned at $\frac{1}{2}$ ton of fibre per acre per year while that of a regular plantation is estimated at $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons.

The fibre is extracted from the leaves by scraping in decorticators. These decorticators are of different types, but the majority are now modified versions of the "Raspador". Although in the past leaf feeding to these machines was exclusively done by hand, mechanical feeding is being gradually adopted by an increasing number of factories as it dispenses with skilled labour, enables a greater output and produces a cleaner fibre. The green fibre obtained is washed and retted for 2 to 4 days after which it is washed, sun dried, brushed and baled.

During the last few years, fibre production averaged 2,000 tons a year, of which the greater part was absorbed by the Government Sack Factory for processing into bags for the transportation of sugar.

Twenty-three fibre factories were in operation in 1956. Production amounted to about 1,521 tons.

The Sack Factory, which has now been enlarged to produce 3,000,000 bags annually, absorbed 1,521 tons of brushed fibre and tow for the production of 1,401,143 bags each weighing 955 grams (80 kgs. capacity), 12,422 yards of filter cloth and 96.8 tons of yarn for the manufacture of local ropes.

In the past, brushed and unbrushed fibre were used at the Sack Factory but as a result of extensive experiments only brushed fibre and good tow are now processed.

All the fibre produced in the Island is handled by the Mauritius Hemp Producers Syndicate, which grades, bales, stores and sells the fibre. For the Sack Factory the fibre is graded as "Very Good", or "Good", or "Tow" and all fibre has to be brushed. Until recently the surplus fibre not absorbed by the Sack Factory found a ready market abroad, but owing to the fall in price of jute no overseas buyer has been found for Mauritius fibre for the last few years.

Food Crops

Mauritius imports most of its food requirements. A certain amount of subsidiary foodstuffs and all the protective foods, mostly vegetables and fresh fruits, are locally produced.

Foodcrops were harvested over an area of about 4,332 arpents (one arpent is equivalent to 1.043 acres) during the year and yielded approximately 8,000 tons of marketable produce, chiefly vegetables, potatoes and maize. There was a marked drop in the potato crop owing to a severe and widespread attack of blight which was difficult to control owing to unfavourable weather conditions and a dearth of fungicidal products on the market.

Practical demonstrations of the use of fertilisers and of methods of crop protection have been carried out in various localities. Improvements observed in crop yields suggest that they have met with a fair measure of success. Two permanent demonstration plots were run during the year in addition to the 55 temporary plots laid out on farmers' lands for the demonstration of the use of fertilizers on foodcrops and vegetables.

The agricultural equipment belonging to the former Food Production Board which was transferred in 1954 to the Sugar Planters' Mechanical Agricultural Pool, an organisation which has been formed to assist planters towards fuller mechanisation and is maintained by funds obtained from the Sugar Industry Rehabilitation Fund established under the Sugar Industry Reserve Funds Ordinance (No. 3 of 1948), continued to be available to the Department of Agriculture for use on its experimental stations and development projects, as well as for the clearing of Crown lands leased for foodcrop cultivation.

L I V E S T O C K

The main livestock of the Colony consists of milk cattle and goats with a small number of sheep and some 4,000 pigs. In the course of the year, a census of the cattle population was taken and the figures compared with those of the 1950 census are given below:

				1950	1956
Milk cattle :—					
Young animals	...	...	...	16,971	19,985
Cows	...	...	...	14,546	16,557
Bulls	...	...	...	626	1,487
				<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	...	...	...	32,143	38,029
Herd cattle	...	...	...	5,100	2,576
				<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL BOVINES	...	...	...	37,243	40,605
				<hr/>	<hr/>

The goat population is subject to great fluctuations from year to year. It is estimated to be at present in the region of 50,000. The milk cattle population has increased from 1950 by just over 18 per cent. The herd cattle has decreased largely as a result of greater mechanisation, especially in regard to the transport of sugarcane.

The livestock products are mostly milk and beef. The meat is supplied partly by cattle imported from Madagascar, the difference—to the extent of some 6,000 head—comes from local sources, mostly from the herd cattle. There is no record of the total milk production, but it may be estimated to lie between half and one gallon per cow per day. Total production is much below requirements and the difference to some extent is made up by imported dried milk. There is thus ample scope for increasing production and to this end the breeding and feeding programmes of the Department of Agriculture are directed. It should be possible eventually to double the milk production, probably by better management alone.

The programme for the improvement of cattle comprises selection within the “indigenous” breed of Creole cattle, which has been shown to be capable of an average yield under good conditions of management of at least 500 gallons per lactation. Progress during the year includes the selection of high-yielding cows from the indigenous population for the foundation breeding stock and the complete re-organisation of the breeding centres and the artificial insemination centre. In pursuance of the above policy, and the fact that contagious abortion due to Brucellosis persisted at the main Government Cattle Breeding Centre, the herd of cross-bred Friesians existing there was sold for slaughter.

Newcastle Disease vaccine for poultry is now produced in the Colony and its continuous application has had great beneficial effects.

Water supply poses no problem, Mauritius being generally speaking a well-watered island almost throughout the year.

F I S H E R I E S

The control of the Mauritius fisheries is exercised by a Fisheries Branch placed under the Director of Agriculture. This consists of a Fisheries Officer and an inspectorate of 59 inspectors and guards who are responsible for the enforcement of the laws regulating fisheries, the collection and establishment of statistics, and the study and implementation of all new measures which might be recommended for the better protection of the stock or to improve the efficiency of the industry or for the welfare of the fishing community.

The Department has given considerable attention to an aspect of production new to Mauritius, namely, the farming of fish for the production of food rich in protein which is so markedly deficient in the diet of most classes of the population.

Fishing is practised in the lagoon surrounding most of the Island, which covers an area of about 95 square miles and off shore on the shelf, to the 100 fathoms line, which is extensive in the northern part forming a bank of about 200 square miles with an average depth of 35 fathoms. About 1,800 fishermen with some 900 light fishing boats and a number of deep-sea pinnaces are engaged in fishing the 2,000 tons which form the average annual catch. An interesting trend is the larger number of pinnaces equipped with marine engines for off-shore fishing. This has been fostered by the issue of Government loans for the purchase of marine engines. Concurrently, a number of lagoon fishermen have been equipping their light craft with $3\frac{1}{2}$ h.p. outboard motors without outside assistance. These developments should eventually result in a greater supply of fish to the population and a more congenial occupation for the people engaged in the fishing industry.

Usually middlemen supply crafts and gear to the fishermen who in return bring their catch at an agreed price. The middleman is expected to make advances during periods of forced idleness. It appears that an increasing number of fishermen are freeing themselves from debt.

The local catch is entirely consumed locally. The price varies with the abundance of fish; it is generally lower during the summer months when more fish is caught.

FORESTRY

Areas of different types of forest. The statement below gives particulars of the different types of forested areas in Mauritius:

Crown Forest Estate

<i>Classification</i>	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Total area in acres</i>
(i) Protected native forests (National Reserves) ...	4,520	
(ii) Productive forests, including plantations of exotics	23,859	
(iii) Catchment areas (Protected)	10,602	
(iv) Mountain Reserves (Protected)	23,424	
(v) Miscellaneous (Areas leased and not devoted to forestry)	4,745	
		<hr/> 67,150

*Leased Crown Lands in the Coastal belt of 250 (French) feet
(Pas Géométriques)*

(i) Tree Plantations (mainly <i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>) ...	4,400	
(ii) Rocky grazing lands with trees	1,100	
		5,500

Privately owned forested lands

(i) Mountain Reserves } Protected by law {	9,000	
(ii) River Reserves } {	6,500	
		15,500
(iii) Forest Lands } Not protected by law {	5,800	
(iv) Scrub ,, } {	93,900	
		99,700
	TOTAL =	120,700

The Crown Estate of 67,150 acres includes
8,239 acres earmarked for tea, 6,417 acres under
Productive Forests and 1,822 acres under
Miscellaneous.

GRAND TOTAL = 187,850

Policy and methods of management

The Crown Forest Estate. The forest policy of the Government of Mauritius may be briefly summarised as follows:

- (i) to reserve in perpetuity sufficient land either already forested or capable of afforestation in order to safeguard and maintain water supplies, preserve the climatic and physical conditions of the Colony, prevent erosion and the silting up of reservoirs, provide forest produce for domestic, agricultural and industrial requirements and to maintain soil stability where the land is liable to deterioration if put to other uses;
- (ii) to manage this Forest Estate so as to obtain the best returns on its capital value and the expenses of management, in so far as such returns are consistent with the primary aims set out above;
- (iii) to set aside in perpetuity as 'National Reserves' suitable areas of the native forests of Mauritius and to preserve such areas in their natural state by controlling, and preventing, if possible, the intrusion and establishment of other-than-native trees and plants;
- (iv) to encourage and assist the practice of sound forestry by private enterprise, and to educate selected Mauritians in technical forestry.

In regard to the Crown Forest Estate, it has not yet been found possible to undertake the essential preliminary operations upon which must be based a Working Plan for the forests of Mauritius

setting out the detailed manner in which the forests will be managed so that they may produce a sustained annual yield of produce in perpetuity and in conformity with the policy outlined above. Until the Working Plan is prepared and approved, all operations must be conducted on a year-to-year basis.

(c) *Organisation of the forestry industry.* The Forest Department is directly responsible for the management of the Crown Forest Estate; all silvicultural and exploitation operations within it are conducted by the department which is directly exploiting, converting and selling all forest produce deriving from it. Privately owned forested lands other than those protected by law are managed by individual owners, and in the course of the year under review many owners have undertaken quite extensive replanting operations. All forest produce deriving from exploitation operations is consumed locally.

Within privately owned forested lands protected by law, i.e. Mountain and River Reserves, no felling or forestry operations of any kind may be carried out without the approval of Government, such approval being given only in exceptional circumstances and as a general rule is restricted to the removal of dead and fallen timber.

(d) *Initial processing of timber, sawmills.* Felling and logging is carried out by means of the saw and the axe. The preference of the professional woodcutter for working on his own is very marked and the use of the axe, rather than saw and axe combined in felling—logging operations, preponderates and results in much avoidable waste. Several types of cross cutting saw have been introduced and demonstrated but so far attempts to persuade woodcutters to work in teams have been unsuccessful. Timber is manhandled from stump to roadside and from there transported by lorries to sawmills of which there are 56 in the Island, the majority inadequately powered.

(e) *Marketing of produce.* Timber from the Crown Forest Estate is sold either in the round or in converted form at the three Government Timber Stores at Port Louis, Rose Hill and Curepipe, managed by the Department. Fuel from the Crown Forest Estate is converted departmentally and sold in the forests to individual purchasers who remove it by lorry. A considerable quantity of fuel is converted into charcoal in the forests, the finished product being removed to and sold at Government Timber Stores.

Produce from privately owned forests is generally sold standing to dealers in timber, firewood and charcoal, but some owners conduct their own exploitation operations.

The retail prices of forest produce from the Crown Forest Estate are appreciably lower than those charged by private traders and sawmillers.

Forest Produce Exploited from Crown Forest Estate. The following tables give particulars of forest produce exploited on Crown Forest Lands during 1956:

	Cubic feet Log Volume
(a) <i>Hardwoods :</i>	
(i) Eucalyptus	133,947.39
(ii) Camphor (<i>Camphora Officinarum</i>)	1,439.54
(iii) Tecoma (<i>Tabebuia pallida</i>)	2,261.66
(iv) Filao (<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>)	7,034.43
(v) Native species (<i>several</i>)	13,225.29
(vi) Others	27,674.53
TOTAL HARDWOODS=	185,582.84
	Cubic feet Log Volume
(b) <i>Softwoods :</i>	
(i) <i>Pinus laeda, caribea (coniferous) & sinensis spp.</i> ...	66,236.07
(ii) <i>Juniperus Bedfordiana</i>	10,114.22
(iii) <i>Cryptomeria Japonica</i>	55,434.76
(iv) <i>Araucaria</i>	744.07
TOTAL SOFTWOODS=	132,529.12
GRAND TOTAL HARDWOODS AND SOFTWOODS=	318,111.96

(c) *Firewood and charcoal.* During 1956, 22,914 'cordes' of firewood, each of 50 stacked cubic feet (equivalent to 1,145,700 cubic feet solid) together with 157,440 kgs of charcoal were produced in the Crown Forest Estate.

From privately owned forests and leased Crown Lands

(i) *Timber.* An estimated volume of some 200,000 cubic feet of round timber, principally 'filao' and eucalyptus was produced (accurate figures are not available).

(ii) *Firewood and charcoal.* An estimated 5,728 'cordes' of firewood (286,400 cubic feet solid) and 800,000 kgs of charcoal were produced.

The Forest Department

The permanent establishment of the Department consists of 151 posts.

For the day-to-day conduct of forestry operations the Department employed during 1955 a labour force of approximately 992 labourers. These were employed at Forest Department Nurseries and at Government Timber Stores, and on silvicultural, exploitation and surveying operations, the cutting of timber and fuel and in the manufacture of charcoal.

Organization of the Department. The smallest administrative unit in the management of the Crown Forest Estate is the Forest Section, which is under the control of a Forester assisted by one or more Forest Guards. A number of Forest Sections constitute a Forest Range, administered by a Forest Range Officer with the assistance of one or more Deputy Forest Rangers. Two or more Forest Ranges constitute a Division, which is administered by a Divisional Forest Assistant under the general control of the Conservator of Forests. Two Assistant Conservators of Forests are employed on technical forestry operations, and the Deputy Conservator of Forests assists the Conservator of Forests in his administrative duties.

Labour Supply. In the purely silvicultural operations undertaken by the Department, the labour force employed is almost wholly Indo-Mauritian, but amongst the ranks of sawyers and woodcutters employed on piece-work rates a high proportion of 'Creoles' continues to be employed. The percentage of 'Creoles' is increasing however, in the ranks of nursery labourers and workers employed on silvicultural and allied operations.

Cyclones. No major cyclones traversed the island during 1956.

Imports of timber. During 1956 a total of 575,686 cubic feet of converted timber (including 5,656.50 cubic feet of shingles) of a gross value of Rs 4,081,851 was imported into the Colony, mainly from Malaya, Siam and Australia. Imported timber is used mainly in building construction. There is a marked local prejudice in its favour owing to its superior finish.

Food Production. Damage by deer, pigs and monkeys in the upland forest zones restricts the application of the 'taungya' system to forest plantations within the lower and warmer elevations and the coastal belt.

Protection. The 4,520 acres of National Reserves continued to receive full attention. The experimental plots laid out in them to establish the best means of controlling exotics and at the same time foster the regeneration of native species are now showing gratifying results.

The experimental timber plantations created on the lower slopes of Signal Mountain were satisfactorily protected against fire. These plantations are surrounded by grass lands which are annually fired, no fires crossed into the rigidly protected areas.

No serious damage to Eucalyptus crops by the Curculionid beetle (*Gonipterus Scutellatus*) was reported.

Tea Cultivation. The cultivation of tea in Crown Lands "Wooton" and "Midlands" was extended; the Forest Department assisted the Tea Officer in the initial clearance of the areas.

Silviculture. A total area of 782.68 acres was newly planted during the year, principally with: *Eucalyptus robusta*, *umbellata*, *citriodora* and *Hybrid*; *Pinus taeda* and *caribaea*; *D. Latifolia*; *Swietenia Mahogany*; *Cinnamomum Camphora*; *Araucaria Cookii*; *Agathis Robusta*. In addition some 3,582.87 acres of plantations of from 5-20 years of age were treated culturally under weeding, cleaning, thinning and pruning operations.

Output of forest produce

The statement below gives the estimated volume, in the round (log volume) of timber and forest produce produced or imported into Mauritius during 1956, and of other minor forest produce.

(i) Major Forest Produce (Timber) :

(A) Local Production			Cubic ft (solid)
(a) Production from Crown Forests	...	...	318,112
(b) Production from unleased Pas Géométriques	...	...	1,000
(c) Production from privately owned Forests and leased Pas Géométriques	...	...	200,000
TOTAL			519,112
(d) Imports from 1st January to 30th September 1956 (sawn timber 575,686 cubic feet)			1,151,372
GRAND TOTAL			1,670,484

(ii) Minor Forest Produce :

			Cubic feet (solid)
(a) Firewood from Crown Forest Lands (stacked cordes of 50 cubic feet	...	...	1,145,700
(b) Firewood from privately owned Forest Lands or leased Crown Lands estimated 5,728 stacked cordes of 50 cubic feet	...	...	286,400
TOTAL			1,432,100
			Kgms.
(c) Charcoal from Crown Forest Lands	...	...	157,440
(d) Charcoal from privately owned forested lands or leased Crown Lands	...	...	800,000
TOTAL			957,440

Revenue and Expenditure. During the financial year 1955-56 the Department was responsible for an expenditure of Rs 2,186,450. The revenue derived by the Department from the sale of forest produce and shooting and fishing leases during the same period amounted to Rs 1,172,947.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

Apart from the sugar, tea, tobacco and fibre industries discussed above, local industries of lesser importance comprise the manufacture of rum and wine, oil and soap, cigarettes, matches, aerated beverages, dairy produce, salt, lime and bricks.

Various small trades, including printing, tanneries, mechanical and electrical workshops flourish in the Colony.

The possibilities of producing cement from sand and trachytes, and pulp and paper from *bagasse* have been investigated but the economics of these projects are still under consideration.

The Customs Tariff Ordinance provides for exemptions from import duty in respect of machinery and apparatus intended solely for use in factories for the manufacture or preparation of most of the commodities which are produced in the Colony, and the Income Tax Ordinance has been amended to include an "investment allowance" equal to one-tenth of the capital expenditure incurred on construction of buildings or provision of new plant for industrial purposes.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The co-operative movement in Mauritius and Rodrigues comprises the Department of Co-operation, four secondary societies consisting of the Mauritius Co-operative Union Ltd., the Mauritius Co-operative Agricultural Federation Ltd., the Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., the Mauritius Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd., and 328 primary societies, comprising 161 credit societies of unlimited liability, 3 credit societies of limited liability, 35 thrift and savings societies, 32 school savings banks, 73 co-operative retail stores, seven marketing societies, four housing societies, one printing society, eleven transport societies and one better-living society. During the year forty-four societies were registered and the registration of five societies was cancelled.

The Department of Co-operation is responsible for registration, audit, supervision, education in co-operative activities, arbitration and, when necessary, cancellation of registration. The main effort of the Department continued to be directed towards consolidation rather than expansion and to raising standards of management and bookkeeping, especially in the co-operative stores societies. Besides the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and Deputy, the staff included 10 field officers.

The Mauritius Co-operative Union Ltd. at the end of the year had a membership of 193 societies. Its objects among others are to promote co-operation, to bring together co-operative institutions

for a common endeavour, to assist with supervision and audit, to promote education in co-operative activities and to represent the movement. During the year the Union sold stationery to societies, arranged film shows and advised stores societies. Its field staff, consisting of a secretary-supervisor and eight supervisors, were under the control of the Department of Co-operation and proved of great assistance. In 1956 the Union's revenue amounted to Rs 69,563, made up of audit fees and contributions of societies and a Government grant-in-aid of Rs30,000 payable for five years from 1954. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies is *ex officio* the President of the Union and of its Central and Executive Committees. The Deputy and 2 Co-operative Officers are *ex officio* members of the Union.

The Mauritius Agricultural Federation Ltd., with a membership of 130 societies, acts on behalf of its societies in agricultural matters and for this purpose retains the part time services of a barrister and of a firm of Chartered Accountants. During the year the Federation assisted in the formation of cane planter transport societies and of tea marketing societies. The Federation is represented on a number of Government boards and committees. Its staff consists of a secretary and an assistant secretary.

The Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank Ltd. at the end of the year had a membership of 151 societies, a share capital of Rs 336,073, reserves of Rs 316,671 and deposits of Rs 2,036,241. Loans issued in 1956, at 7 per cent interest p.a., totalled Rs 4,094,809: loans overdue at the end of the year amounted to Rs 37,000. Loans to member societies, consisting mainly of cane growers, are secured by a lien on the societies' sugar, all of which is sold through the Bank's Secretary-Manager, who is also the Bank's broker.

The Mauritius Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd., with 73 member societies, had a turnover for the year ended 31st December, 1956, of Rs 3,834,401. The society's share capital was Rs 89,030 and reserves amounted to Rs 50,683. Both the society and its member retail stores benefited from the increased volume of direct imports from overseas.

Credit Societies of Unlimited Liability

At the end of the year there were 141 credit societies of unlimited liability in Mauritius and 20 in Rodrigues, with a total of 9,168 members. The majority of the members of the Mauritius societies are cane growers, while those of the Rodrigues societies are mainly engaged in subsistence farming. In 1956 loans of Mauritius societies to members totalled Rs 4,644,415 and were secured by

sureties and a lien on the crop. Payments to members for cane marketed through the agency of their societies amounted to Rs 13 million. It is encouraging to note that deposits of members rose from Rs 192,476 to Rs 207,856. Share Capital and Reserve Funds of the societies were Rs 472,504 and Rs 956,847 respectively.

Credit Societies of Limited Liability

The three credit societies of limited liability, whose 67 members are fishermen, issued loans totalling Rs 2,110 during the year. The co-operative marketing of fish caught in the large ' seine ' acquired by one of the societies had some success.

Thrift and Savings Societies

There were 35 thrift and savings societies at the end of 1956, with a membership of 2,289 and savings of Rs 327,114. The two societies of salary earners, with deductions for savings at source, were successful. In the remaining societies, which are in the rural areas, deduction at source was not possible and except in a few cases savings were poor.

School Savings Banks

16 school savings banks were registered in 1956, bringing the total to 32 with a total membership of 5,485. By the end of the year savings amounted to Rs 50,930 as compared with Rs 40,983 in 1955. The banks are popular with parents and children and receive good support from teachers. The Co-operative Union supplies books free of charge from its Education Fund and, as a special concession to help the banks build up funds for communal activities, the Co-operative Central Bank pays interest at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on their deposits. Arrangements made by the Department of Education to appoint teachers as internal auditors so that, by partly relieving the Department of Cooperation of checking work, more school banks could be formed, were of great benefit.

Co-operative Retail Stores

At the end of 1956 there were 73 co-operative retail stores with a membership of 11,506 and a turnover of Rs 5,025,560. The majority of societies operated successfully, but a few suffered losses through defalcations, bad management and excessive credit sales. In addition to the usual bad debts reserve, all societies are building up, by allocation of surplus, what is termed a mutual aid fund. Once the fund reaches the required level the by-laws are amended to allow credit sales up to the amount of the fund on the basis of a maximum credit limit for each member. In this way the fund serves as a buffer against losses on credit sales and makes up for capital tied up in debts.

Marketing Societies

The Crève Coeur Co-operative Ginger Marketing Society Ltd. continued to experience difficulty in disposing of members' ginger to local dealers. A new development was the registration of six tea marketing societies.

Housing Societies

There are 4 housing societies with a total membership of 224, share capital of Rs 3,380 and deposits of Rs 53,428. At present the societies are financed by a Government loan. The societies had lent Rs 77,300 to members for the building of houses.

Printing Society

The co-operative printing society with 838 members, a share capital of Rs 28,139 and a printing press in Port Louis carried out Rs 43,102 worth of printing business during the year and made the most of its old equipment.

Transport Societies

The number of co-operative transport societies increased from 8 to 11 and membership from 402 to 508. Paid up shares on the 31st December, 1956, amounted to Rs 135,007. About 26,145 tons of sugar cane were transported from fields to factories during the 1956 crop. Expenditure of a capital nature by these societies is reimbursed from the Sugar Planters Rehabilitation Fund.

Better Living Society

One co-operative better-living society with 80 members is operating in Long Mountain. It has a kindergarten school for about 50 four-year old children. The kindergarten school is assisted by a small grant from the Village Council.

Educational Activities

Two courses of a week each were held for officials of co-operative credit societies. The junior staff continued voluntarily to take correspondence courses in bookkeeping and other subjects of the Co-operative College, Loughborough. The Co-operative Union showed films on co-operative subjects throughout Mauritius and held classes for salesmen of stores societies.

Audit

The accounts of all societies were audited. Except in the case of three secondary societies and the printing society, which employed professional or approved auditors, the audits were carried out by the staff of the Department of Co-operation and of the Mauritius Co-operative Union Ltd. In addition to the annual statutory audit, interim audits were carried out during the year.

Arbitrations

A large number of arbitration awards were made against members of stores societies who failed to pay for goods purchased on credit. Some awards were also made against members of credit societies who failed to repay their loans. Where necessary the awards were referred for execution to the attorney of the Mauritius Co-operative Union Ltd. The co-operative movement was fortunate in obtaining the honorary services as arbitrators of a retired civil servant, two retired teachers and a barrister, all active members of the movement.

TABLE

The following table gives an indication of progress made over three years:—

		1954	1955	1956
Total Societies	... ..	290	293	332
Total Members	... ..	26,421	28,424	31,252
Total Turnover	... Rs ...	31,910,051	33,691,453*	33,843,164.
Share Capital	... Rs ...	1,071,918	1,161,096	1,324,656
Reserve Funds	... Rs ...	1,127,285	1,394,248	1,694,908
Other Funds	... Rs ...	93,017	162,508	215,184
Government loans				
to Societies	... Rs ...	18,875	32,065	137,120
Total Assets	... Rs ...	7,586,529	8,937,693	9,534,639*

*For the year ended 29th February, 1956.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

Organization

The Education Department is the biggest of the departments which form the administrative machinery of the Government of Mauritius. It has seven divisions and a staff of about 3,000. The headquarters staff consists of a Director, a Deputy Director, two Assistant Directors, a number of Organizers, and clerical staff. The Department's headquarters are at Rose Hill where the staff of the Visual Education branch, the School Health Service and the Primary Schools Inspectorate are also housed. The other senior members of the staff at Assistant Director level are the Principals of the three Government secondary schools and of the Teachers' Training College.

The Director is assisted by a number of advisory committees, of which the most important is the Education Committee.

Educational Facilities

On the 31st October, 1956, there were 163 Government or aided primary schools providing free education to 74,288 pupils. The 77 aided schools are managed by four Education Authorities: Roman Catholic (53 schools), Church of England (17 schools), Hindu (5 schools) and Muslim (two schools). There were, in addition, 150 other schools registered with the Department with a roll of 15,146 children. This number, which includes the children in the primary sections of the secondary schools, brings the total number of children receiving primary education in 1956 to 89,434 as compared with 85,450 in the previous year. Of this total 50,839 were boys and 38,595 girls.

Teachers in aided schools are paid by the Department and are appointed, transferred and promoted by the Director on the recommendation of the Authority concerned. In 1952 each Education Authority set up an Appointments and Promotions Board, consisting of three representatives of the Authority and two of the Education Department, to settle questions of teachers' appointment and promotion. A Primary Schools Promotion Board was set up at the same time for teachers in Government service. The final selection is now made after consultation with the Public Service Commission.

In primary education the English pattern is followed, generally speaking, subject to adjustments to meet local conditions. Primary education is free and includes the issue of basic text books without charge.

A total of 118 Government scholarships are available either on a competitive basis or by award to needy and deserving pupils. These scholarships, which provide free secondary education, free travelling, text books on favourable terms and a small money grant, are tenable at either Government or aided secondary schools.

Secondary education is almost exclusively of the grammar school type, leading to University courses. Government schools can meet only part of the demand and since 1951 the Department has been subsidizing a number of private schools which can offer satisfactory guarantees of proper schooling up to School Certificate or Higher School Certificate level. There were, on the 31st October 1,118 pupils in the three Government secondary schools, 2,123 in the subsidized schools known in Mauritius as " approved secondary schools ", and 7,719 in the unaided secondary schools. This total of 10,960 secondary pupils was made up of 7,451 boys and 3,500 girls. The 68 secondary schools comprised 3 government, 8 approved and 57 other schools.

Apart from the College of Agriculture, there are no institutions in the Colony which can provide full-time post-secondary education, and students wishing to follow University and other post-secondary courses have to go overseas. There were 338 students following courses in institutions of higher education in the United Kingdom and Eire, and 89 on the Continent.

There is a Teachers' Training College at Beau Bassin, through which all those seeking permanent service in the Government and aided primary schools must pass. The normal course is of two years' duration, but this has had to be supplemented by short courses of six months' duration to meet the demand for new teachers. During the year, 255 students were in training, including 116 long course (90 men and 26 women), 29 short course (all women) and 9 teachers following a year's in-service training in handicrafts.

The greatest problem which confronts the Department is the increasing number of children of school-going age and the consequential rising demand for school places. Policy has necessarily been influenced both by this pressing demand for more school places and by the need for instruction in practical form of education. There is an urgent need for more schools and more teachers and steps are being taken to meet the situation within the limits of the country's resources.

Seven primary schools were opened at the beginning of the year while eight Government primary schools were under

construction throughout the year for opening in 1957. The Roman Catholic and Church of England Education Authorities also pursued their school rebuilding schemes which receive Government aid on the basis of a two-thirds grant of the capital expenditure incurred by the Authority or of the additional rent payable by the Authority to landlords. The amount of capital grant-in-aid involved has averaged Rs 360,156 in recent years. Fully equipped handicraft centres have now been provided in 39 Government and aided primary schools, at the two Government secondary schools for boys and at the Training College which has two centres. At Queen Elizabeth College, the Government secondary school for girls, work was completed on phase two of the building scheme (laboratory block, domestic science, art and geography rooms, library and administration sections). At the Training College work was begun on the Assembly Hall and Lecture Theatre and completed in the same year. Work has begun on new buildings to rehouse the Royal College School at Cassis on the outskirts of Port Louis. The foundation stone was laid by Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret on the 29th September.

School Health Service

The School Health Service falls into two divisions: medical and dental. The staff comprises one School Medical Officer, two nurses, four dentists with one clinical and clerical assistant each, and one Nutrition and Health Assistant.

Entrants into all Government and aided primary schools and into Government secondary schools are medically examined. Free medical treatment is provided for primary school pupils.

The school nurses carry out cleanliness and health surveys (including distance vision testing) in the primary schools. Free treatment is provided for head infestation.

The medical staff is helped by the Nutrition and Health Assistant who is an officer of the Education Department. The latter's duties consist in giving talks on nutrition to senior pupils in primary schools and to mothers of schoolchildren, in weighing and measuring pupils, and in rendering assistance in connection with the School Milk Scheme, whereby all primary schoolchildren are eligible for a free ration of 200 ccs of skimmed milk mixture at school daily. In addition, yeast tablets and supplements of Vitamins A and D in the form of cod liver oil or halibut oil capsules are issued to those requiring them.

A Mobile School Clinic fully equipped for medical, cleansing and nutrition work visits all the primary schools.

The dental service treats primary school pupils only. Pupils of schools in the urban areas are treated at the hospitals while schools in rural areas are visited by two Mobile Dental Clinics. Teeth-cleaning drills are held regularly at school. Toothbrushes at a subsidised price are available for sale to pupils at primary schools.

Handicrafts

Increasing emphasis is placed on the teaching of handicrafts in Government and aided primary schools and in the Government secondary schools.

In 1956 nine new handicraft centres were opened in primary schools, bringing the total to thirty-nine.

Bookcraft is taught to children of Standards IV to VI and woodwork and metal work to boys of Standard VI. A four-year course in needlework for girls is now in force in all schools, and at certain schools basketry is also taught to them.

School Broadcasts

The school broadcasting service continued to be the responsibility of the Visual Education Organiser while an Education Officer was attending a training course with the B.B.C. in London. The broadcasting service was therefore run concurrently with the visual education service to schools.

There were fifteen-minute daily programmes to schools during term-time, three days a week for primary schools and two days for secondary schools. All primary schools broadcasts are produced and pre-recorded on tape within the Education Department. A series was devoted to the work of some Government departments and some of the principal local industries. The broadcasts to secondary schools consisted of B.B.C. recordings on English literature and citizenship.

Visual Education

All Government and aided primary schools were visited by the Mobile Cinema Unit of the Department during the year and 474 films shows were given. A further 168 film shows were given to secondary schools.

Eight full length English feature films were rented and were shown to secondary schools and youth organisation audiences.

A twenty-two minute colour and sound film on the visit of H.R.H. The Princess Margaret was produced, cutting and editing of the film and recording of part of the background music being done locally.

Further Education

Post-primary continuation classes were organized at 15 centres with a total enrolment of 353 pupils.

Post-secondary continuation classes provide instruction on a fee-paying basis in commercial subjects (with a view to those enrolled taking the London Chamber of Commerce examinations) and also in art, bookbinding, woodwork and weaving. Attendance at these classes was much more regular than at the post-primary classes.

Science extension classes provide laboratory facilities for students reading for the G.C.E., Intermediate and Final B.Sc. examinations, and for local examinations in Pharmacy. The subjects studied are Physics, Chemistry and Biology. In 1956, 95 students followed a practical course in one or other of these subjects.

Grants were made in 1956 to the four town councils, three Districts Councils, the four Education Authorities, the Roman Catholic Adult Education Organisation and the Hindu Arya Sabha to enable them to organise adult literacy classes.

Youth Organisations

Special emphasis has been placed on the expansion of the youth movement in the rural areas during the year. There are now four elected regional committees of representatives from the clubs and organisations in each region. Four Youth Officers from the Education Department have been seconded to work in the rural areas to help these committees to develop the Association of Clubs and to broaden the scope of club activities.

The total number of clubs and organisations has shown a marked increase and there are now 500 affiliated to Youth House and the rural associations with a membership of 18,000.

Whilst the main work of the year has been to develop the internal organisation of clubs, external activities have not been forgotten. Three delegates attended the international conference of the World Assembly of Youth held in Berlin in August and seven delegates visited Madagascar to study youth problems in that country.

Expenditure

Expenditure on education during the financial year 1955-56 amounted to Rs 15,761,199, excluding Rs 393,657 spent by the

Agricultural, Health and Prisons Departments on education services under their control. This brings the total ascertainable Government expenditure on education to Rs 16,154,856 out of total Government expenditure of Rs 132,714,557.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The medical services are administered by a Director of Medical Services, assisted by two deputies. They are organised into nine divisions and form one of the largest departments of Government. The health services have appreciably expanded in recent years and provision is made in the Capital Expenditure Programme 1955-60 for a further degree of expansion and development.

The functions of the Medical and Health Department are:

- (a) to investigate the influence of social, environmental and domestic factors on the incidence of human disease and disability;
- (b) to plan and carry out measures for the promotion of health;
- (c) to institute and maintain measures for the prevention of disease;
- (d) to provide a quarantine service to prevent the introduction of infectious diseases by sea or air;
- (e) to provide facilities for treatment of disease, including mental disease, by maintenance of hospital and dispensary services;
- (f) to make provision for the rehabilitation of the disabled;
- (g) to control the practice of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy;
- (h) to provide facilities for the training of nurses, midwives, sanitary officers;
- (i) to advise local authorities regarding their health services and to inspect those services;
- (j) to prepare and publish reports and statistical or other information relating to health.

General Health

Health conditions continued to improve and the year 1956 witnessed substantial achievements throughout the field of public health, as indicated by the following statistics:

Year	Birth rate per ‰	Death rate per ‰	Infant Mortality rate per ‰	Maternal Mortality rate per ‰
1938 ...	33·4	29·9	162·7	11·38
1943 ...	33·1	25·9	141·5	5·14
1950 ...	49·7	13·9	76·3	3·51
1955 ...	41·8	12·9	67·2	1·47
1956 ...	43·8	11·8	66·0	2·13

The main factors responsible for bringing about such striking improvements have been the progressive elimination of malaria as a result of an island-wide campaign, the higher standard of environmental hygiene, the absence of severe cyclones and drought during the past eleven years and the relative economic prosperity of the Island.

Malaria

Malaria, which up to 1945 occupied the first place amongst causes of mortality, has now ceased to be a public health problem and the figures shown below indicate the remarkable fall in the death rate due to malaria:

<i>Year</i>		<i>Deaths ascribed to malaria</i>	<i>Rate per 1000 population</i>	<i>Percentage of deaths due to malaria to total deaths</i>
1945	...	3,534	8.34	23.13
1948	...	1,580	3.58	15.02
1951	...	285	0.59	3.95
1952	...	188	0.37	2.52
1953	...	61	0.12	0.73
1954	...	27	0.05	0.32
1955	...	3	0.00	0.00
1956	...	Nil	Nil	Nil

A reduction which appears just as spectacular is evident from the returns furnished by the hospitals of the Colony:

<i>Year</i>		<i>Cases of malaria treated in hospitals</i>	<i>Deaths in hospitals</i>
1945	...	3,244	148
1948	...	1,576	66
1951	...	98	4
1952	...	3	Nil
1953	...	Nil	do.
1954	...	3	do.
1955	...	1	do.
1956	...	3	do.

Infective and Parasitic Diseases

There has equally been a steady decline in the number of deaths caused by the group of infective and parasitic diseases: from 4,052 in 1948 and 1,603 in 1949, the death figures fell to 863 in 1951, 665 in 1954, 311 in 1955 and showed a slight increase to 354 in 1956.

Enteric fever

Another noteworthy feature is the reduction in the incidence of enteric fever: the incidence rate which was 1.47 per 1,000 of the population in 1946 came down to 0.67 in 1951, 0.16 in 1954, 0.12 in 1955 but rose to 0.26 in 1956 on account of a small localized outbreak in the South of the Island.

Mortality Rates

Mortality from the principal groups of diseases is hereunder summarised:

<i>Group</i>	<i>Number of deaths</i>	<i>Rate per 0/00 population</i>
(a) Infective and parasitic diseases	354	0.6
(b) Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs ...	413	0.7
(c) Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	398	0.7
(d) Diseases of the circulatory system	498	0.9
(e) Diseases of the respiratory system	773	1.4
(f) Diseases of the digestive system	865	1.5
(g) Certain diseases of early infancy	867	1.5

Institutional Facilities

The institutional facilities which were available in 1956 are tabulated hereunder:

<i>(a) Government Institutions</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Beds</i>
1. General Hospitals	8	1,207
2. Dispensaries (including 2 in the prisons)	48	—
3. Specialized Units :—		
(a) Maternity and Child Welfare Centres	8	—
(b) Maternity wards in hospitals	8	—
(c) Leprosarium	1	62
(d) Mental Hospital	1	707
(e) Orthopaedic Hospital	1	157
(f) Prisons Hospitals	2	46
4. Mobile Units :—		
(a) Dispensaries	4 units	
(b) Ante-natal Clinic	1 unit	
(c) Dental clinic	2 units	
<i>(b) Private Institutions</i>		
1. Sugar estates' hospitals	33	738
2. Sugar estates' dispensaries	8	—
3. Nursing Homes	5	53

There are 37 dispensaries in the rural areas. In addition a Mobile Dispensary service comprising four units caters for the needs of scattered villages and hamlets where it would be uneconomic to provide a static out-patient service.

There are 16 maternity and infant welfare centres, and regular clinics are held at each of these. This service is supplemented by a mobile unit which visits a large number of localities in the rural districts.

Medical and Health Staff

	Government	Private
1. Registered Medical Practitioners	58	47
2. Dentists	4	25
3. Pharmacists	2	45
4. Nurses of senior training ...	9	—
Nurses in hospitals ...	166	—
Dressers in hospitals ...	210	—
5. Midwives (all categories) ...	62	—
6. Sanitary Inspectors ...	58	—
7. X-Ray Specialist	1	—
X-Ray Technician	5	—

Expenditure on Health Services

Government expenditure on medical and health services in the financial year 1955-56 was Rs 11,023,254, or 8.03 per cent of the Colony's total expenditure for the year. This represents a sum of Rs 19.69 per head of the estimated population at the 31st December, 1955.

BUILDING AND PLANNING

Architecture

During the past year there have been some notable additions to the number of commercial, public and domestic buildings. A number of modern, highly imaginative designs have been realized, which will impose their influence on future standards. Although the new works are in the contemporary manner, designs have been thought out in terms of local climatic conditions and materials available on the local market. The use of bright colours coupled with the employment of deep shadows thrown by *brise soleil* have been used to increase elevational interest.

Town Planning

Although the Town and Country Planning Ordinance (No. 6 of 1954) is in force, no general planning system has been enforced for lack of technical staff but leases of Crown land conform to accepted planning principles.

Building Materials and Equipment

The rapid increase in the activity of the building industry has resulted in temporary shortages of the major building materials in the course of the year, which have brought about fluctuations in the price of local stocks of imported supplies.

Building Construction

Continued use is being made of a number of new materials. Colour effects have been obtained by the use of coloured cements and concretes and by the increased use of emulsion paints.

The most notable new material introduced during the year has been the movable glass louvre set in an aluminium frame, which is being extensively used.

Building Works

The structure of two large commercial buildings had been erected in Port Louis by the end of the year, both of four to five floors in height. These buildings promise to show a great advance on existing business premises. The new Cable and Wireless building is in course of erection by the sea shore just outside Port Louis, where a double roof has been employed in order to secure cool conditions within.

Government Buildings

The building of an Ophthalmic Unit, with out-patients' treatment, operation facilities and thirty beds is in progress at the Victoria Hospital, while accommodation for sixty patients is being provided at the mental hospital in single rooms and small wards. Extensions are also being carried out at the Civil Hospital, Port Louis: these include an out-patients' department and an administrative block.

Some thirty-two Police quarters, mainly in the Port Louis area, were occupied, while a Look Out Tower has been built at the entrance to Port Louis harbour.

An expedition to an islet of the Saint Brandon group successfully erected a Meteorological Station. The building was of concrete with an aluminium roof, supported on concrete columns five feet above the sand to enable the sea to wash under the building (as may happen in cyclonic conditions).

The new Orthopaedic Centre opened in September. It is largely built on the pavilion plan and has 208 beds; all water-heating, sterilizing and cooking is done by electricity.

A start has been made on the erection of the Royal College School at Cassis, Port Louis. It is planned around a number of courts, providing shaded areas at ground level. The main teaching unit is a two-storey block on pillars, arranged to allow each classroom to have three external walls, to give plenty of light and ventilation, while the direct penetration of sunlight is excluded by vertical louvres running the full height of the building.

The new building at Queen Elizabeth College comprises laboratories, library, domestic science and administration. It is built round a grassed quadrangle with two sides raised on pillars, to provide a covered terrace, overlooking a ravine. The sombre grey of the stone and concrete works contrasts with brighter patches of coloured rendering.



THE PRINCESS MARGARET ORTHOPAEDIC CENTRE

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Outdoor Relief

The basic organisation for the registration, investigation and adjudication of applications for outdoor relief remained the same in 1956 as in 1955.

New applications received in 1956 amounted to 10,932, of which 7,090 were entertained, while 4,841 allowances were withdrawn from the Register during the year. The total number of cases on roll at 31st December, 1956, was 12,274 as compared with 9,823 at the end of the preceding year.

The basic scale rates introduced in 1953 are still in force, but generous discretionary additions are made in cases of prolonged illness where a special diet is recommended.

The total amount disbursed on outdoor relief in 1956 was Rs 2,726,949, the average monthly payment in December, 1956, being Rs 21.34 as against corresponding figures of Rs 2,407,003 and Rs 24.03 for 1955.

Relief in kind

The number and cost of blankets and flannel under-garments distributed to needy recipients of outdoor relief during the winter season in 1956, as compared with 1955, are as under:

Year		Blankets Units	Flannels Units	Total cost Rs.
1955	...	3,618	2,002	46,214
1956	...	4,312	2,421	46,106

In addition to these comforts, 223 pairs of spectacles to the value of Rs 3,843 were also issued to recipients of outdoor relief and to Old Age pensioners in 1956 on the recommendation of the eye specialist.

Workrooms

Work in lieu of relief is provided in the Department's workrooms, the criterion for employment being destitution rather than competence. The number of persons so employed in 1956—mostly widows with large families—was 61, and their total earnings for the year on a piece rate basis amounted to Rs 77,110.84 as follows:

				Rs.
Laundry (in-workers)	...	...	...	26,387 15
Lingerie (out-workers)	...	...	...	10,481 49
Sergerie and Uniforms (in-workers)	...	...	...	40,242 20
TOTAL	...	...	...	<u>77,110 84</u>

The average monthly earning was therefore Rs 105.84 per relief worker as compared with Rs 92.72 for 1955.

Indoor Relief

There was no addition in 1956 to the number of institutions providing indoor treatment.

The number of inmates in the infirmaries and orphanages at the end of 1956, including harmless mental patients transferred from the Mental Hospital, was as under:

		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Infirm	...	374	256	630
Orphans	...	95	111	206

as compared with 659 infirm and 215 orphans at the end of the preceding year.

The capitation grant amounts to Rs 1.10 per day for both adults and children. The additional Christmas and New Year grant of Rs 2 per inmate was paid as usual in 1956.

A programme of outings to the seaside was arranged for the inmates of all infirmaries and orphanages in 1956, and these outings were much appreciated. The Youth Organisation also invited some 100 orphans from Public Assistance institutions to join the Schools Holiday Camp at Cannoniers Point for a week, thereby affording them an opportunity to mix with other children and participate in outdoor games and other activities during that period.

More frequent visits were paid in 1956 to the various institutions by members of voluntary organisations who distributed sweets and cigarettes to inmates and provided them with musical and other entertainment.

Old Age Pensions

The maximum rate of pension is Rs 20 per month.

The number of new applications received in 1956 amounted to 3,431 of which 3,001 were granted, while 2,236 allowances were removed from the Register during the year. At the 31st December, 1956, there were 20,016 current Old Age Pensions as compared with 18,429 at the end of 1955. The total disbursements on these pensions in 1956 amounted to Rs 4,452,387 the average monthly pension for December 1956 being Rs 17.95 as against corresponding figures of Rs 4,401,184 and Rs 19.90 for 1955.

Repatriation

Expenditure of Rs 5,270.45 was incurred in 1956 on the repatriation of 20 destitute Mauritians from abroad and aliens from the Colony. In 12 of these cases the expenses, totalling Rs 780, are non-recoverable.

The number of repatriates on record at the end of 1956 was 39, and repayments amounting to Rs 4,530.32 were effected by 18 liable parties during the year.

Relief to destitute Mauritians abroad

During the year there were eight persons in receipt of "hard core" relief. The actual expenditure on this account from all sources is not yet known, but the total commitment is approximately Rs 6,900 per annum.

S O C I A L W E L F A R E

Departmental Organisation

The Social Welfare Department was created in July, 1953. Before this date Social Welfare was the responsibility of a special branch of the Public Assistance Department while the Probation Service was under the charge of the Judicial Department. The Department works in close co-operation with other Government Departments and voluntary bodies engaged in social welfare activities.

Social Welfare Centres

With the construction of the twelfth centre which was started this year, the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee will have only three more centres to build to complete the Social Welfare Centres Scheme which provided for the construction of 15 centres in the rural areas. These centres play an important part in the development of community activities and in the general social education of the people in the rural areas. A maternity and child welfare service including pre-natal and post-natal care to mothers and the provision of milk to babies constitutes one major activity at the centres. Doctors paid by the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee have been performing all medical work at the centres. The Director of Medical Services posted two midwives to each of three other centres according to his rural midwifery scheme. The midwifery service at the other centres is still being run by the Social Welfare Department, with funds provided largely by the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee, under the technical supervision of the Medical Department:

Social welfare centres are the focal point for afternoon and evening activities in every village where these exist. Indoor games, sports and listening to the radio are the main activities. In some centres there are formal literary classes, with debates and lectures from time to time. Film shows by mobile units are a regular feature at each centre.

The needlework classes held in each centre for the benefit of the local girls are very popular.

To ensure co-ordination, conferences of chairmen of local committees are held from time to time under the chairmanship of the Social Welfare Commissioner.

Welfare Months

To stimulate community activities the holding of welfare months at social welfare centres has been found to be a successful technique. During the month chosen, besides a health exhibition at the centre, officers of departments such as Agriculture, Health, Education and Social Welfare give lectures and demonstrations to the people, drawing their attention to the problems of the village and suggesting solutions. In one place an experiment carried out by the Agricultural Officer with regard to potato cultivation according to modern technique not only removed the local prejudice that potatoes would not grow there but also proved conclusively that the yield could be remunerative. The contribution of the local women's associations, boys' clubs, cooperative societies and other welfare organisations is generally very substantial during the welfare month.

Women's Welfare

The development of women's associations is being encouraged, especially in the rural areas. The aim of these associations is to bring the women together to learn things which will be of help in their homes, to improve conditions in the village, to consider the needs of the villagers and to develop a spirit of friendliness, co-operation and initiative. There were 45 such associations registered at the Social Welfare Department at the end of 1956.

Most of the associations run a sewing class for the benefit of the girls of the village and there is also a fortnightly or monthly sewing class held by a dressmaker employed by the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee. In some places a handicraft class is held.

The Mauritius Women's Institute which was set up in 1955 has continued the good work begun in that year. This organisation consists of ladies from all the communities of the Island. Its members pay regular visits to social welfare centres giving talks, demonstrations and sometimes holding sewing classes. After the course in painting given by one of the members of the Institute was over, some of the trainees undertook to run painting classes in their respective localities. Four such classes were begun in 1956. At the close of the year, members of the Institute were busy in helping the women's associations to prepare articles for an exhibition which is due to take place in February, 1957.

Voluntary Workers' Conference

The Social Welfare Department organises from time to time conferences of voluntary workers to discuss ways and means of developing the rural areas and raising the standard of living of the inhabitants.

Treatment of Offenders

The probation system introduced in the Island in 1946 has made satisfactory progress. Probation applies to both juveniles and adults and it is worthy of note that more adults than juveniles pass through the hands of Probation Officers. A certain amount of social work connected with the courts (e.g., settling of matrimonial disputes, handling of difficult children, etc.) is also undertaken by Probation Officers, many of whom have been trained in the United Kingdom.

The Probation Service pays particular attention to the prevention of delinquency. To occupy the leisure time of youths in villages, Probation Officers now urge them to make use of the available facilities in Social Welfare Centres.

Probationers are now required to report to Probation Officers in Social Welfare Centres, wherever these exist, instead of going to the Court. In a Welfare Centre the Probation Officer can spend more time with the individual delinquent child and is in a better position to plan rehabilitation measures.

The first Probation Hostel for boys was opened in May, 1954, it is managed by a representative Committee. It can accommodate fifteen boys, and the number of probationers was up to fifteen in 1956. These boys are regularly employed outside the hostel, and part of their earnings goes towards their keep. Voluntary workers help the management with regard to the education and health of the inmates.

In the field of after-care Probation Officers help with the rehabilitation of juveniles released from the Industrial School and from Borstal.

Chapter 8—Legislation

Seventy Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council and assented to by the Governor during the year 1956. These Ordinances deal principally with matters of domestic concern: the most important of them are:—

1. *The Local Government Elections Ordinance,*
(No. 1 of 1956)

This Ordinance makes better provision for the registration of electors and the conduct of elections for the Municipal Council and Town Councils and for other matters connected therewith.

2. *The Municipality (Transitional Provisions) Ordinance*
(No. 2 of 1956)

Vacancies had occurred in the number of councillors for the Municipal Council of Port Louis which could not appropriately be filled by by-elections as usual. The Ordinance gives power to the Governor to appoint suitable persons to fill all such vacancies in the year 1956 before the next general election.

3. *The Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Ordinance,*
(No. 3 of 1956)

The Co-operative Societies Ordinance, 1945, provides for the reference to the Registrar of disputes between a society and its committee or any officer of the society. Although the term “officer” in the text did not include “employee”, disputes in which employees were concerned had been in practice referred to the Registrar. The Ordinance sanctions such practice.

4. *The Agricultural Bank (Amendment) Ordinance,*
(No. 8 of 1956)

The Agricultural Bank Ordinance, 1950, provides that no loan should be granted unless it is secured by first rank mortgages on immoveable property except in the case where mortgages already burdening the property secure loans made under various Ordinances. This Ordinance extends that provision to loans made under the Aloe Fibre Industry (Development) Ordinance, 1952.

5. *The Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance,*
(No. 11 of 1956)

The Ordinance gives effect to the recommendation of the 1955 Fiscal Committee as subsequently approved and varied by the Legislative Council. It also amends certain provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance, 1950. The effect of the more important amendments is (i) to allow the Commissioner to disclose information

to the Registrar General which could help in assessing succession or donation duties, (ii) to clarify the present method of assessing the annual value of owner-occupied dwellings, (iii) to encourage the modernisation of plant and machinery and development in agriculture, (iv) to increase the earned income relief and reduce the personal allowance, and (v) to prevent avoidance of tax by the transfer of property to minor children in certain circumstances.

6. *The Succession Duties (Amendment) Ordinance,*
(No. 13 of 1956)

The object of this Ordinance is to enact that the present rate of succession duty should apply to individual successions and not as in the past to estates, and the registration duty should in all cases be reduced from Rs 2 to Re 1.

7. *The Tea Industry Control (Amendment) Ordinance,*
(No. 20 of 1956)

This Ordinance empowers the Governor in Council to prescribe by regulations the form of contract for the sale of tea leaves to a factory owned by a planter or a group of planters or by an authorised dealer. The form of such contract contained in the Schedule to Ordinance No. 51 of 1949 was found unsuitable in view of improvements contemplated for the benefit of the tea industry and in particular in the relations between the tea planter and the manufacturer and also of the necessity to determine the price to be paid for tea leaves and other conditions of purchase.

8. *The Sweepstakes and Bets (Levy of Tax) (Amendment) Ordinance*
(No. 21 of 1956)

This Ordinance has for effect *inter alia* to legalize the betting operation known as "pool" and to provide for matters incidental thereto by making consequential amendments to the main Ordinance (No. 35 of 1948).

9. *The Medical Practitioners (Amendment) Ordinance,*
(No. 23 of 1956)

Provision is made in this Ordinance for the registration of medical practitioners sent by the World Health Organization to this Colony with a view to assisting the Public Health Department in connection with some of its development schemes.

10. *The Department of Telecommunications (Constitution) Ordinance*
(No. 24 of 1956)

This Ordinance creates a Department of Telecommunications to replace the Department of Electricity and Telephones.

11. *The Sugar Industry Reserve Funds (Amendment) Ordinance*
(No. 26 of 1956)

This Ordinance provides *inter alia* that equipment belonging to the Sugar Planters' Mechanical Pool when not required to be used by planters for whose benefit the Pool was set up for purposes connected with the sugar industry, may be hired to such planters for other purposes or to other persons or to a Government department for any purpose. It also defines the word "*métayer*" according to its local acceptance.

12. *The Savings Bank (Amendment) Ordinance*,
(No. 27 of 1956)

The object of this Ordinance is to simplify the procedure for dealing with unclaimed Savings Bank deposits, the provisions laid down in section 12 of the Savings Bank Ordinance, 1950, being cumbrous, lengthy and costly.

13. *The District Councils (Amendment) Ordinance*,
The Village Councils (Amendment) Ordinance,
(Nos. 31 and 32 of 1956)

These Ordinances make better provision for the time at which council elections should be held. Provision is also made for the repression of personation at Village Council elections.

14. *The Deportation (British Subjects) (Amendment) Ordinance*
(No. 33 of 1956)

The object of this Ordinance is to rectify an error made in drafting Ordinance No. 29 of 1955 the effect of which was to exclude from the definition of "persons belonging to the Colony" those who had obtained the status of British subjects by reason of a grant of a certificate of naturalization by the Governor.

15. *The Jury List (Amendment) Ordinance*
(No. 35 of 1956)

This Ordinance consolidates and revises the list of persons who are exempted from serving on a jury.

16. *The Pensions (Officers transferred to the Central Electricity Board) Ordinance*,
(No. 36 of 1956)

Provision is made in this Ordinance for the safeguarding of the pension rights of public officers transferred to the Central Electricity Board, a statutory body created by Ordinance No. 79 of 1951.

17. *The Inflammable Liquids and Substances (Amendment)
Ordinance*

(No. 42 of 1956)

The object of this Ordinance is to authorise the Governor in Council, to provide by regulation, for the inspection of premises which are not registered and in which inflammable liquids or substances are suspected to be kept.

18. *The Interpretation and Common Form (Amendment)
Ordinance*

(No. 43 of 1956)

This Ordinance removes the restriction by which only those officers of the Secretariat who are mentioned in sub-section (1) of section 38 of the Interpretation and Common Form Ordinance (Cap. 162) and who are authorised to signify orders and directions of the Governor may sign contracts on behalf of the Government.

19. *The Town Councils (Temporary Provisions) Ordinance,
(No. 46 of 1956)*

A vacancy occurred in one of the Town Councils which could not appropriately be filled by a by-election in view of the general revision of all electoral registers. This Ordinance was passed to dispense with by-elections for Town Councils before the general elections due to be held in December, 1956.

20. *The Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund (Amendment)
Ordinance*

(No. 48 of 1956)

The main changes effected by this Ordinance are the removal of the limit of Rs 3,000 as entitlement for pension and the grant of pensions to the beneficiaries of the Fund on the basis of the contribution actually made by the associate.

21. *The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance,*

(No. 49 of 1956)

Authority is given by this Ordinance to the Comptroller of Customs to require that a British ship going to sea from any port in Mauritius shall be provided with additional officers duly certificated.

22. *The Military Contribution (Amendment) Ordinance,*
(No. 50 of 1956)

The Aliens Registration Ordinance,
(No. 51 of 1956)

The Supplies (Control) Ordinance,
(No. 52 of 1956)

The Exchange Control (Amendment) Ordinance,
(No. 53 of 1956)

The Raw Sugar (Amendment) Ordinance,
(No. 54 of 1956)

These Ordinances which provide respectively for (i) the suspension of the Military Contribution Ordinance, (ii) the registration of aliens, (iii) the control of supplies and, matters incidental thereto, (iv) the restriction on purchase, sale and loans of foreign currency and gold and on agreements and (v) the suspension of the operation of the Raw Sugar Ordinance, are designed to replace in permanent form certain provisions of the emergency legislation dealing with those matters.

23. *The Municipality (Amendment) Ordinance,*
(No. 55 of 1956)

The Town Councils (Constitution) (Amendment) Ordinance,
(No. 56 of 1956)

These Ordinances have for object to facilitate the early registration of electors for the Municipal and Town Councils by providing that the qualifying period for registration as an elector shall end on the 1st April instead of the 1st July. The first mentioned Ordinance also provides that a person may be elected as a Municipal Councillor if he is, *inter alia*, qualified to be registered as an elector whether or not his name is actually borne on the roll of electors, to secure uniformity of qualification in that respect with that relating to the Legislative Council and the Town Councils.

24. *The Income Tax (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance,*
(No. 57 of 1956)

The object of this Ordinance is to offer a measure of encouragement to the development of a tourist industry through the provision of suitable hotels, by extending to duly licensed buildings providing when complete not fewer than six bedrooms for the accommodation of *bona fide* hotel guests the same allowances as in the case of industrial building or structures.

25. *The Life Assurance Companies (Amendment) Ordinance,*
(No. 58 of 1956)

This Ordinance extends to life assurance companies incorporated and carrying business in a Commonwealth country the exemption from making the statutory deposit of Rs 100,000 which under section 25 of the Life Assurance Companies Ordinance (Cap. 403) is granted to such companies incorporated and carrying on business in the United Kingdom, if they are exempted in that country from making a deposit.

26. *The Package Tax (Amendment) Ordinance,*
(No. 59 of 1956)

The Customs Tariff (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance,
(No. 63 of 1956)

These Ordinances give effect to certain provisions of the 1952 International Convention to facilitate the importation of commercial samples and advertising material by exempting such goods from tax, and samples of goods of all kinds from import duties provided such samples are of negligible value.

27. *The Transfer of Shares and Debentures Ordinance,*
(No. 61 of 1956)

This Ordinance ensures that any transfer of shares or debentures in any company shall be registered with the Registrar General within fifteen days of the sale and not as hitherto before the transfer is made in the Registers of the company. The object is to prevent fictitious sales of shares and debentures by unscrupulous brokers who could formerly keep the transfer forms indefinitely with them without registration with the Registrar General and the Companies concerned.

Chapter 9 : Justice, Police and Prisons

J U S T I C E

The Laws of Mauritius are mainly based on the French Codes. The Civil Code, the Penal Code, the Code of Commerce and the Code of Civil Procedure, with such amendments as have been made thereto to suit local conditions, are still to a large extent in force in the Colony. There is also a great number of Ordinances.

The Bankruptcy Law, the Company Law, the Law of Evidence and the Law of Criminal Procedure are, however, mostly English, as well as is the whole system of the Labour Laws.

The highest judicial authority is the Supreme Court of the Colony of Mauritius and its Dependencies consisting of the Chief Justice and three Puisne Judges.

The Executive Officer of that Court is the Master and Registrar, who is also a Judge of the Bankruptcy Division of the Court.

The Supreme Court is a superior Court of record and has the same powers, authority and jurisdiction as the High Court of Justice in England.

It exercises jurisdiction in divorce matters and Admiralty jurisdiction in virtue of the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act, 1890, and is also a Court of Equity. It has powers of supervision over all the other Courts of the Colony and hears appeals from the Supreme Courts of the Colony of Seychelles in civil matters.

Appeals lie to the Privy Council in certain cases against judgments of the Supreme Court.

The Judges of the Supreme Court preside over the Assize Court, the verdict being returned by a jury of nine men; the decision must be that of at least seven out of the nine members.

Since the 1st January, 1955, there has been a Court of Criminal Appeal. The Chief Justice and the Judges of the Supreme Court are the Judges of that Court which is constituted by three Judges. That Court hears appeals from persons convicted before the Supreme Court.

The District Magistrates of the Colony have jurisdiction in civil cases in which the subject matter does not exceed three thousand rupees in value. They hold judicial enquiries in cases of accidental death or of fire, and preliminary enquiries in cases triable by the Assize Court. In addition they deal with certain matters in Chambers.

The summary jurisdiction of a District Court in criminal matters is vested in a District Magistrate who deals with the less serious

offences and is empowered to sentence an accused party to imprisonment with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding one year, and to a fine not exceeding one thousand rupees.

Certain offences may be tried by an intermediary Court consisting of a Bench of three Magistrates who have power to impose a sentence of penal servitude of not more than three years and a sentence of imprisonment of not more than two years, and who may also impose any fine not exceeding the maximum provided by law for the offence dealt with by them.

There are now 14 Magistrates, of whom one is also the Civil Commissioner for Rodrigues and administers justice in that Dependency.

A visiting Magistrate inspects once annually each of the Lesser Dependencies.

There is in addition an Industrial Court which is presided over by a Magistrate and which has exclusive jurisdiction—subject to appeal or review—in all labour disputes including workmen's compensation cases and matters arising out of factory legislation.

The administrative control over the Magistracy has, since 1945, been vested in the Chief Justice.

The majority of the civil cases brought before District Courts concern claims for money, or possession of tenement, or ownership of land.

On the criminal side, most of the cases, other than petty breaches of the law, relate to offences involving fraud, e.g. larceny, embezzlement, forgery, or swindling, or offences against the person, e.g. wounds and blows, indecent acts and assaults, or breaches of the road traffic laws.

During the year 24 cases were brought before the Court of Assizes. No case went before the Court of Criminal Appeal.

There were 545 civil cases entered before the Supreme Court as compared with 605 in 1955, 340 cases were entered before the Industrial Court as compared with 520 in 1955, and 4,342 civil cases and 29,749 criminal cases were heard by the District Courts.

POLICE

Functions

The functions of the Mauritius Police Force are prescribed by section 14 of the Police Ordinance (Cap. 312) and include preserving the public peace, preventing and detecting crimes, misdemeanours and contraventions, regulating traffic, and executing warrants and summonses issued by the Courts.

Strength

The Police Force consists of a Commissioner of Police, and of such other Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Constables as may be determined by the Governor from time to time with the approval of the Secretary of State.

Organization

The Mauritius Police Force has an authorised establishment of 30 officers and 1,134 other ranks. In addition there are 25 Police Women who are employed on clerical work.

In addition to their primary responsibility for preventing and detecting offences and for maintaining law and order, the Police are responsible for the control of immigration and emigration, weights and measures, issuing of licences (motor vehicles, drivers, liquor, firearms, etc.), the collection of inland revenue, the supervision of licensed premises and other extraneous duties.

The Constables are trained in foot and baton drill, and a number of selected personnel in each District and at Headquarters are trained in the use of tear smoke.

The Commissioner of Police assisted by the Deputy Commissioner of Police and other Officers has his Headquarters at Line Barracks in Port Louis.

The personnel of the Force is distributed between:

(a) Police Headquarters and the following Branches:

- (i) Criminal Investigation and Revenue and Liquor Branch;
- (ii) Pay and Quartermaster's Branch;
- (iii) Road Traffic Branch;
- (iv) Training School and Reserve;
- (v) Forensic Science Laboratory;
- (vi) The Band;
- (vii) The Water Police;
- (viii) The Rodrigues Police;
- (ix) The Railway Police;

(b) Six Police Districts controlling 48 Police Stations and Posts.

The Criminal Investigation Department

This Branch is responsible for the investigation of serious crimes and cases of a special nature such as frauds and defalcations; it also affords assistance to the District Police when necessary and collates the statistics of crime for the whole Island.

To the C.I.D. are attached the Finger Print and Modus Operandi Bureau, the Photographic Section, the Immigration and Passport Section, the Central Registry of Habitual Criminals and the Revenue and Liquor Branch.

Finger Print and Modus Operandi Bureau

111 scenes were visited by the staff and articles bearing finger prints were brought to the Finger Print Office by the District Police in 165 cases. Decipherable prints were found in 41 cases. 27 identifications were made. In 8 cases finger prints were the sole evidence available against the accused parties. In 6 cases documents bearing finger prints were referred to the Finger Print Office and in 3 cases identity was established. The Finger Print slips of 13,250 criminals (male and female) are on record. The scene of crime collection contains 108 photographs of unidentified prints found at scenes of crime. The palm print collection contains 2,079 prints. 859 Criminals showing a distinctive *Modus Operandi* are registered in a Method Index and 412 Criminals are on the Findex system.

The Photographic Section

7,469 photographs were supplied. These included 88 scenes of crimes and 78 of fatal or serious accidents. 599 criminals were photographed, 800 photographs were supplied for warrant cards issued to members of the Force and special constables, two dead bodies were photographed to assist identification.

Immigration and Passport Section

During the year, 1,451 passports (including 221 free) were issued, 295 renewed and 146 visaed. 98 emergency certificates of nationality, 4 collective passports and 14 Seaman's certificates of Nationality and Identity were issued. 55 forms of affidavit in lieu of Passport were registered. The Immigration staff attended 333 ships arriving in Port Louis and 160 aircraft at Plaisance Airport. 7,420 persons entered the Colony, including 83 immigrants, 8,002 left, including 144 emigrants.

Supervision of Habitual Criminals

Supervision is maintained over habitual criminals and bad characters who are sentenced to Police Supervision by the Courts. There were 2,145 re-convicted male criminals in the Island, including 144 first offenders re-convicted during the year.

Revenue and Liquor Section

This Section controls the collection of Inland Revenue and for that purpose keeps a card index record of all trade licences issued quarterly. Regular checks of licensed premises are effected by the personnel of the Section, whose duties also include the prevention and detection of offences against the Distillery, Liquor, Dangerous Drugs, and Weights and Measures laws. The Section pays particular attention to the detection of opium offences, illicit distillation of spirits and to the prevention of gambling in private clubs.

Pay and Quartermaster's Branch

Under the charge of the Pay and Quartermaster of the Force, this Branch is divided into two Sections: the Pay Section and the Store Section, the latter under the special charge of the Assistant Pay and Quartermaster. The Pay Section is responsible for all the finance and accounting of the Force and for the collection of inland revenue. The Store Section deals with the indenting of materials, the manufacture and issue of uniforms for all ranks, and the supply generally of stores and accoutrements to the Force.

Road Traffic Branch

Police Vehicles in use:

Motor Cycles (solos) ...	...	20
Land Rovers ...	...	16
Vans and Light Trucks ...	...	8
Prisoners' vans ...	...	3
Lorries ...	...	7 (including a mobile canteen)
Motor cars ...	...	15
Cyclomasters ...	...	7

Road Traffic

The number of vehicles continued to increase and by the end of 1956 had reached the figure of 10,882. Although the incidence of accidents was still on the high side a slight decrease was recorded during 1956.

Training School

Recruits from among young men of the local population are enlisted between the ages of 18 and 25 after undergoing educational and medical examinations. Selections are made by a Board of Officers appointed and convened for the purpose.

The School aims at training the members of the Force on the same lines as in the United Kingdom and at inculcating in them tact, patience, tolerance, good humour, initiative and ability to rely on their own judgment and resources.

The normal period of training of recruits at the Training School is five months, which affords time to give adequate instruction in laws, police duties and procedure, general knowledge, first aid, elementary drill, riot drill and physical training.

Recruits undergo theoretical training for the first three months, and practical training, including station and street duties, during the second half of their stage at the School.

The Band

The Mauritius Police Band which was first established in 1921 is a full military brass band, composed of trained musicians. A dance orchestra was formed in 1947 from among members of the Band.

The Water Police

The Water Police are under the orders of the Superintendent of Police, Port Louis district. The unit comprises one Corporal and nine Constables. It is equipped with a 15 H.P. motor launch suitable for use only within the harbour. The unit performs regular patrols in Port Louis Harbour, to maintain law and order and to enforce harbour regulations. Its duties also include preventing persons from stowing away, assisting in the enforcement of immigration and quarantine laws, supervising the unloading of cattle, and preventing smuggling.

During the year the Water Police attended 333 ships which entered the harbour.

The Rodrigues Police

The Rodrigues Police, commanded by an Assistant Superintendent, is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the dependency. The establishment of this Police formation is one Officer and 27 other ranks.

The Railway Police

A Sub Inspector, a Sergeant and six Constables are attached to the Railway Department as a special Force to deal with offences committed on the Railway.

The Forensic Science Laboratory

This important institution of the Force was established in 1938 and maintains a high degree of professional competence. It is under the charge of the Police Medical Officer, who is assisted by a suitably trained staff.

The Forensic Science Laboratory deals with the scientific examination of exhibits, the examination of documents and the identification of handwriting and typewriting in relation to cases of forgery and kindred offences. It also deals with any other aspect of crimes requiring scientific investigation.

Lectures on medical jurisprudence, first aid and hygiene are delivered regularly by the Police Medical Officer

First Aid: St. John Ambulance Association

Courses of instruction in First Aid are given to members of the Force, the Railway Department and the Fire Service. All lectures are delivered by qualified medical officers or lay lecturers with the assistance of instructors for practical demonstration in accordance with the regulations of the St. John Ambulance Overseas. Examinations were held during the year and 446 members of the Police Force are now qualified and hold the St. John's certificate.

A Mauritius Police Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade has been formed and registered at the Overseas Headquarters in England.

The Home Nursing Division which was registered and approved on 1st April, 1952, has a strength of 25.

Games, Recreation and Welfare

As much time as possible is devoted to the playing of games and to recreation generally. The Force possesses good football, volley ball and hockey teams. Inter-District and friendly matches with local teams are frequently played. A start has been made with boxing and swimming.

The Officers, Inspectorate, N.C.Os and Constables each have their own mess and recreation rooms.

A well-stocked canteen is open to all ranks of the Force. The Police Band contributes to official and demi-official functions in the various messes and institutions of the Force.

A library and reading room is open daily to members of the Force and to public subscribers. Books, reviews, and newspapers are regularly imported and are circulated throughout the Colony among members of the Force posted at out-stations in the country districts. The stock of English and French books in the library is 12,003.

A Police Federation of all ranks from Inspector to Constable exists for the consideration of any matters concerning the welfare and efficiency of its members, other than matters of discipline and promotions affecting individuals.

Firearms

Firearms are strictly controlled. The number of firearms licensed during the year was 5,955.

Police Reserve and Special Constables

With the approval of the Governor, a Police reserve consisting mainly of retired Police and Army Officers has been enrolled and is available for mobilization at short notice. The object of the Reserve is to provide a cadre of reliable citizens to assist the regular Police Force in an emergency.

In accordance with section 47 of the Police Ordinance (Cap. 312), special constables may be appointed at any time. A start was made in 1955 with the enrolment and training of 100 special constables on the lines of the Special Constabulary in Great Britain. In 1956 the approved strength was increased to 200.

Offences

The number of offences reported to Police in 1956 was as follows:

Crimes	1,093
Misdemeanours ...	18,959
Contraventions ...	29,130

P R I S O N S

Functions of the Prisons Department

The principal duty of the Prisons Department is to maintain in safe custody the offenders delivered to its care. Subject to this, every possible effort is made by education, training in crafts, the issue of books and periodicals, the showing of instructional films and the introduction of privileges for good behaviour to imbue the prisoners with a sense of dignity, of self-respect and of duty towards the community and country such as will fit them to re-enter the outside world as useful citizens on completion of their sentence.

Penal Administration

There are three institutions in the Colony dealing with persons received from the Courts:

- (a) Central Prison, Beau Bassin, to which the Women's Prison is attached;
- (b) Borstal Institution, Grand River North West;
- (c) Industrial School, Beau Bassin.

(a) Central Prison

Beau Bassin Prison consists of two three-storey blocks accommodating 980 prisoners in separate cells and a remand block having 6 large communal and 6 separate cells accommodating 50 prisoners.

There are also workshops where the following trades are taught: blacksmithing, tinsmithing, carpentry (3 shops), tailoring, shoe-making, basketry, mat-making and book-binding. There is also a concrete block-making industry and the erection of new buildings is carried out by prisoners. There are two hospital wards, together with stores and isolation wards.

The administrative headquarters of the service are situated in the Central Prison, at which all prisoners, both male and female, are received and discharged.

Within the men's prison at Beau Bassin there are now six yards laid out with flower beds and lawns where prisoners can associate for meals and leisure. Prisoners are segregated according to classification in the different yards:—

No. 1 Yard—Felon Recidivists

No. 2 Yard—Ordinary Recidivists

No. 3 Yard—Punishment Yard

No. 4 Yard—Stars (First offenders, all ages)

No. 5 Yard—Young prisoners (17–23 years)

No. 6 Yard—Remand Yard.

The classes are kept segregated as far as possible while at work. There is also a grade system in operation whereby a prisoner can by good behaviour pass successively from Probationary to 3rd, 2nd and 1st Grade, each grade having certain privileges, such as extra books, longer time in association and the playing of games.

Young prisoners now undergo recreational training under a trained instructor, morning and afternoon. There are also three voluntary recreational classes each evening. A qualified school teacher is attached to the Department and takes three voluntary educational classes each evening after prison labour has ceased.

A cinema show is given inside the prison twice a month, when films of topical and educational interest are shown. During week-ends (on Saturdays and Sundays) the football pitch outside the prison is used by prisoners. About 200 prisoners enjoy this privilege each week, not including those who go out as spectators. Prisoners now have their own football team which plays against civilian teams on Wednesday evenings, when about 200 prisoner spectators are permitted to attend. Volley-ball pitches and a basket-ball pitch inside the prison walls are in use daily after labour.

The number of unofficial visitors, both to the Men's and Women's Prisons, has increased.

The women prisoners are housed in the Women's Prison which was opened in May, 1951. It adjoins the main prison but has a separate entrance. The grounds are attractively laid out with lawns, flowers and a vegetable plot. A large number of fruit trees and flowering shrubs has been planted. The inmates, who are few in number, are taught sewing, gardening and mat-weaving, the latter by unofficial visitors.

(b) Borstal Institution

The Borstal Institution is of minimum security and has accommodation for about 125 youths. It is run on similar lines to a Borstal in the United Kingdom.

The inmates are classified into the ordinary, probationary and special grades; there is also a penal grade for boys under punishment. Apart from classification, they are divided into three Houses (Red, Blue and White) which compete to stimulate interest.

The lads receive daily instruction in carpentry, tinsmithing, tailoring, cooking, boot-and shoe-making and gardening. A party of boys goes daily to the Forest Nursery for work and instruction. In addition they have physical training and educational classes under a qualified teacher.

Educational films are shown and explained to the lads twice monthly and outdoor games are organised each evening. Lads of the special and probationary grades swim at the sea side three times a week. Football matches are played against outside teams and an annual sports day has been instituted. The boys attended their camp in September this year.

A Borstal Visiting Committee meets monthly and, among other things, decides on questions of release.

(c) Industrial School

The School has accommodation for about 200 boys and is run on the same lines as an English Approved School.

Boys up to the age of 18 years are catered for. The senior boys are divided into houses (Red, White and Blue), while the juniors (under 14) are in Yellow House, where they are separately accommodated and fed. A monthly "house" competition is run with points for conduct, cleanliness and upkeep of the house gardens.

All junior boys attend school daily for four hours under qualified teachers and receive primary school instruction up to the 5th Standard. After the 5th Standard boys who are still of school age attend an ordinary Government primary school. Senior boys who are illiterate attend school three evenings a week.

All boys do daily physical training under a qualified instructor and in addition take part in organised games. Films of educational value are shown and commented on by the Visual Education Officer and lectures on citizenship, forestry, electricity and animal husbandry have been given by experts who have offered their services to help the boys. Instruction in tinsmithing, brushmaking, shoemaking, carpentry, cooking and gardening is given to the boys in accordance with their aptitudes.

The School drum-and-fife band is popular and always appreciated. All boys have an opportunity of spending a fortnight under canvas at the sea.

Prison Discipline

During 1956, 598 reports were dealt with as follows: 8 by the Prison Board and 590 by the Commissioner.

Remissions

All prisoners sentenced to imprisonment whether by one sentence or by consecutive sentences for a period of not less than 30 days are entitled to have one-third of their sentences remitted.

No payment is yet made for prison labour but an earnings scheme is now in operation.

Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

ELECTRICITY

The Central Electricity Board acquired the assets of the General Electric Supply Co. of Mauritius Ltd. on the 1st July, 1956, for the sum of Rs 11,960,000. The Board thus became the sole producer and distributor of electricity throughout the Island.

Work on the major Eau Bleue hydro-electric scheme continued, the civil engineering works being undertaken by the Public Works Department. During the year it was decided to increase the installed capacity of the station to 4,000 KW, giving an estimated yearly output of 8 million units. The scheme is now due for completion early in 1959.

Two minor hydro-electric projects were put in hand during the year. Surveys and investigations for further hydro-electric development continued.

In order to meet the immediate increasing demand for electricity, the capacity of the St. Louis Thermal Station was increased by the addition of two new 2,000 KW diesel sets commissioned in March and June, 1956.

A concrete pole manufacturing plant, having an approximate yearly output of 1,200 poles of various sizes, started operating in January. The poles produced were mostly used on the 22 KV transmission line linking St. Louis to Henrietta Sub-stations *via* Rose Hill and Vacoas. The first section of this line to Rose Hill was commissioned in July and the second section from there to Henrietta was completed in November.

In September a 24-hour supply was given to the villages of Mahebourg, Gros Bois, Bois Chéri and New Grove.

The total number of consumers at the end of the year was 36,200 representing an increase of 8 per cent over 1955.

Installed capacity of plant and units generated during the year were as follows:

			KW	Units
<i>Hydro :—</i>				
Tamarind Falls	...	...	8,000	23,391,850
Reduit	...	...	600	2,612,366
Cascade Cécile	...	...	310	743,880
<i>Thermal :—</i>				
St. Louis	...	...	7,000	14,139,430
Sack Factory	...	...	500	281,610
			<hr/> 16,410	<hr/> 41,169,136

The increase over last year for units generated was 4,419,136. The present effective power output of Tamarind Falls Station was reduced to 5,000 KW due to the dismantling of two old 24" pipe-lines. The erection of a new 36" bitumen pipe-line was begun in September and will be completed in 1957. This will bring the output of the Station to its full 8,000 KW capacity of installed plant.

WATER SUPPLIES

The progress made in the development of water supplies for domestic, irrigation and hydro electric purposes is reviewed below.

(i) *Domestic Water Supplies*

The principal sources of domestic water supplies are Mare-aux-Vacoas, Grand River North West and Piton du Milieu. The supply from Mare-aux-Vacoas is derived from a storage reservoir of 597 million cubic feet capacity at an elevation of 1,850 feet above sea level and provides water for about half the population of the Island. It serves the district of Plaines Wilhems and parts of the districts of Moka, Black River and Port Louis.

Important works of improvement to this water supply are being carried out further to extend the supply and to meet the increased demand due to the growth of population and to the rise in the standard of living. Consumption in 1956 had reached 9,000,000 gallons per day. The water is filtered and chlorinated before distribution.

Filtering capacity is being further increased by the construction of new filters. New service reservoirs and trunk mains were built in 1956.

The Grand River North West water supply is derived from the river of that name at an elevation of about 250 feet above sea level. The supply amounts to 5,000,000 gallons per day. It is managed by the Municipality of Port Louis and serves exclusively the town of Port Louis with a population of about 80,000. The water is filtered and chlorinated before use.

The Piton du Milieu Reservoir is now in operation and provides water to localities in the North, East and South of the Island comprising the districts of Rivière du Rempart, Flacq, Grand Port, Savanne and part of Moka, gradually replacing former unsatisfactory supply sources. The new supply is derived from a storage reservoir of 110 million cubic feet capacity at an elevation of 1,435 feet. The scheme, when completed, will supply 4,000,000 gallons per day to a population of about 143,000 inhabitants. The

reservoir was completed at the end of 1953 and work is continuing on the construction of filters and the laying of pipes for the distribution system.

The 15" trunk main from the filters towards the districts of the South was completed and further service mains and distribution pipes from 10" to 3" diameter were laid during the year.

(ii) *Irrigation*

Irrigation is carried out in the Black River district from La Ferme reservoir and in the northern districts of Pamplémousses and Rivière du Rempart from La Nicolière reservoir.

La Ferme reservoir, at an elevation of 450 feet above sea level, has a capacity of 417 million cubic feet and serves to irrigate at present 2,500 acres. Additional supplies are being derived from Mare-aux-Vacoas, Mare Longue and Tamarind Falls reservoirs by means of the Magenta Canal, completed in 1954, which has brought another 1,500 acres under irrigation.

La Nicolière reservoir, at an elevation of 800 feet above sea level, has a capacity of 200 million cubic feet and serves to irrigate about 1,000 acres of land. The reservoir is linked to Midlands by the Midlands—La Nicolière Feeder Canal 17 miles long.

(iii) *Hydro-Electric Power*

Water for hydro-electric purposes is supplied from three reservoirs:

- (a) the Mare-aux-Vacoas reservoir mentioned in (i) above;
- (b) the Mare Longue reservoir of a storage capacity of 220 million cubic feet at an elevation of 1,900 feet above sea level;
- (c) the Tamarind Falls reservoir of a storage capacity of 72 million cubic feet at an elevation of 1,625 feet above sea level.

The three reservoirs are situated in the catchment area of the Tamarind river and supply water to a power station situated at 960 feet below the Tamarind Falls reservoir.

The output of the power station in 1956 was 23.4 million KWH., being below normal owing to drought conditions.

After going through the power station, water passes through the Magenta Canal, and is used for irrigation purposes in the Black River district.

Preliminary works on the hydro-electric project at Eau Bleue were started early in 1955 and continued in 1956. This scheme was

recommended by Sir Bede Clifford in his book " The Irrigation and Hydro-Electric Resources of Mauritius " published in 1940.

The scheme provides for the construction of an earth dam of approximately $7\frac{1}{2}$ million cubic feet and the storage of 220 million cubic feet of water. The site of the reservoir is on River Eau Bleue near Midlands. A fall of 600 feet will be made available by cutting through a ridge separating the reservoir site from Le Val where the power station will be situated.

The power station will have an output capacity of about 5 million KWH per annum making use of the flow of River Eau Bleue alone. By supplementing the flow of River Eau Bleue by that of River Citron, the output of the power station may be increased to 8 million KWH per annum. The total output can further be increased to 14 million units by diverting part of Grand River South East into the reservoir.

PUBLIC WORKS

The responsibilities of the Public Works and Surveys' Department may be set out as follows:

- (a) maintenance and/or construction of (i) all Government works in connexion with water supplies, roads, bridges, cemeteries, quays and machinery at the Harbour, (ii) Military Works on behalf of the Military Authorities and (iii) Government buildings costing not more than Rs 10,000;
- (b) the management of all Crown lands and lands forming part of the *domaine public*, and the acquisition of land for public purposes;
- (c) the leasing of sand quarries;
- (d) the valuation and the inspection of all lands pledged to Government, the assessment of damage caused by fire to canefields or other properties and the assessment of compensation for property acquired;
- (e) advice to Government on public works and all questions relating to the other functions of the Department.

The supply of materials from overseas was regular during the year and good progress was made in the development of the water works undertaken by the Public Works Department.

Maintenance work was also carried out without any difficulty.

Much attention was given to the maintenance and improvement of roads.

OBSERVATORY

The Observatory Department maintains a meteorological and magnetic station at the Royal Alfred Observatory, Pamplemousses, an administrative and forecasting headquarters at Vacoas and a meteorological observing station at Plaisance Airfield. Meteorological observing stations are also maintained in the Dependencies at Agaléga, Diégo Garcia, Rodrigues and St. Brandon.

Complete rainfall records were collected from about 150 gauges distributed over the Colony. About 350 meteorological observations were collected each month from ships at sea. The daily weather maps covered, as far as possible, the whole of the Indian Ocean and surrounding continents between 15° N and 50° S. Meteorological observations and forecasts were prepared and transmitted daily for the use of meteorological services of other countries, shipping, aviation, Government Departments and the public. Special warnings of tropical cyclones were provided and numerous general enquiries from authorities overseas and in the Colony were answered.

A grant of £40,190 (Rs 535,866) from Colonial Development and Welfare funds was approved in December, 1955, to enable the Colony to establish a radio sonde/wind station and a suitable teleprinter system, and the construction of quarters for the personnel of the Department in Mauritius and the Dependencies. The implementation of this project has begun.

THE GRANARY

The Granary, which was completed in 1933, is a two-storeyed building of ferro-concrete and brick and covers an area of 1½ acres. It adjoins a Lighter Quay 389 feet long served by six electrically-operated hoists which lift bagged grain from lighters at the Quay to the top floor of the building, which is operated as a Customs transit shed. From the top floor grain is delivered by gravity chutes to the first and ground floors which are divided into twelve and six separate stores. Other gravity chutes connect the first floor with the delivery yard at the rear of the building.

The Granary Ordinance, (Cap. 64), prescribes that all grain (which includes rice, dholl, lentils, gram, peas and any other cereal which may be declared grain for that purpose by Proclamation), shall be discharged from ships to lighters and conveyed to the Granary for storage. The Ordinance limits the amount of grain which may be stored elsewhere than at the Granary.

The building was designed and erected with the object of protecting grain against contamination and destruction by pests particularly rodents, and all entrances, exits and personnel lifts are operated with this in view.

After allowing for passageways and separation of cargoes, storage capacity is sufficient for approximately 500,000 bags of grain (about 34,500 tons).

As originally planned the various stores of the first and ground floors were to be allocated to importers who would be responsible for their stocks delivered from the top floor. Such allocation however has not been possible for a considerable time because of bulk-buying, particularly of rice, by Government and the consequent occupation of the greater part of the store for the storage of Government supplies.

All grain is stored in the Granary in bags: there is no bulk storage. Pest infestation is prevented as far as possible by spraying insecticide. Measures against white ants and termites are carried out by a local firm under contract and stores are fumigated as frequently as traffic permits.

The Granary Department, which is responsible for the administration and maintenance of the building, is under the control of the Granary Superintendent who is also the Comptroller of Customs. Handling and stacking of grain is carried out by contract labour. During the year 1955-56, 54,798 tons of rice and 4,054 tons of other grain were handled.

GOVERNMENT FIRE SERVICES

The functions of the Fire Services are prescribed in section 4 of the Fire Services Ordinance (No. 56 of 1953) and consist in taking all available measures with a view to extinguishing fires and to protecting life and property in case of fires in any area outside the District and Town of Port Louis.

The Department comprises an Administrative Office in Port Louis and six Fire Stations at Curepipe, Rose Hill, Quatre Bornes, Rivière des Anguilles, Mahébourg and Piton. On the 31st December, 1956, the staff was composed of 1 Controller, 1 Office Supervisor, 1 Chief Officer, 1 Deputy Chief Officer, 2 Station Officers, 20 Sub Officers, 24 Leading Firemen and 133 Firemen.

The Service responded to 356 fire calls, compared with 281 in the previous year. The loss caused by fire, excluding loss in Port

Louis municipal area, was estimated at Rs 901,230 compared with Rs 764,914 in 1955. Appliances on fire calls, covered 11,961 vehicle miles.

Within the area covered by the Service, there were 765 fire hydrants on the 31st December, 1956, including 73 new hydrants installed during the year.

The number of requests for the attendance of firemen during presentations of stage plays was 76 and the attendance fees collected during the year amounted to Rs 1,351.

In accordance with Regulation 4(2) of the Inflammable Liquids and Substances Regulations (Government Notice No. 179 of 1953) 33 certificates were issued by the Controller of Fire Services to the effect that the premises on which filling stations will operate are adequately protected against fire.

The Cinematograph Regulations, 1941, were amended by Government Notice No. 89 of 1956 to provide for periodical examinations of fire appliances in cinema halls by qualified officers of the Municipal and Government Brigades.

The Fire Services (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 60 of 1956) empowers the Controller of Fire Services to make orders relative to the issue of uniforms and equipment to personnel of the Fire Services.

Fire appliances in nearly all Government buildings and in 32 cinema halls were tested.

Twelve requests for pumping on sugar estates and private premises were attended to and fees for these attendances amounted to Rs 4,939.

The average cost per man in the Service during the year was Rs 4,280 while the cost of the Service per head of population (excluding the inhabitants of Port Louis) was Rs 1.67. The total revenue collected in 1955-56 was Rs 48,882.

The mobile appliances distributed to the various fire stations included 8 fire engines, 6 large and 11 small trailer pumps, 5 water lorries, 1 water trailer, 2 cars, 1 lorry, 2 foam vans, 3 hose carriers, 2 Land Rovers, 1 " scooter " motor cycle and 6 bicycles.

Chapter 11 : Communications

S H I P P I N G

Port Louis, the capital of the Island, is also the only port. Ten ocean-going and four small vessels can be accommodated at any one time.

Vessels are normally moored at buoys in the harbour, though two quays are available, one of 492 feet and able to take a vessel of 29 feet draft and one of 390 feet for vessels of drafts up to 17 feet. Both coal and oil bunkers are available in limited quantities; there is a good supply of fresh water.

Regular cargo services are provided from the United Kingdom by the Clan Line of Steamers, Union Castle Line, Bullard King Limited, and the Ellerman Lines, and from continental and French Mediterranean ports by the French Companies *Messageries Maritimes*, *Nouvelle Compagnie Havraise Péninsulaire* and the *Svedel* Line.

Passenger services direct from the United Kingdom to Mauritius are infrequent. The French vessels from Marseilles to Mauritius provide the better service.

The Dutch *Royal Inter-ocean Line* vessels call at Port Louis regularly on the Far East, South Africa and South America service, thereby providing a regular passenger and cargo service to and from the Far East and South Africa. Passengers wishing to travel to the United Kingdom usually tranship from the Dutch vessels to the Union Castle Line at Durban.

A total of 347 vessels entered Port Louis harbour during the year, with a total net registered tonnage of 1,304,495 tons. Of these 347 vessels 194 were of British Registry, 59 French, 49 Dutch, 15 Norwegian, 10 Swedish, two United States, three South African, one Italian, six Panama, one Liberian, one Czechoslovak, one Polish, one Japanese, one Indian, two German and one New Zealand. The vessels include the Royal Yacht *Britannia*.

There are four small vessels on the local register. Three of them are employed on services to the dependencies of Mauritius and the fourth one, *M.V. Mauritius*, a 1165 *NRT* cargo and passenger liner, is employed on runs to the dependencies, Madagascar, South and East Africa and Australia. These vessels have a combined net registered tonnage of 2,160 tons.

During the year, 3,641 passengers entered the Colony by sea and 4,065 left the Island. These figures include passengers in transit.

CIVIL AVIATION

There is only one airport in Mauritius. It is situated at Plaisance, in the south-east of the Island about three miles from the coast, and is run by the Civil Aviation Department of the Mauritius Government. *Air France* have scheduled "Super Constellation" service twice weekly between Paris and Mauritius via Nairobi, Madagascar and Reunion: the return flight Mauritius—Paris is along the same route. *Qantas Empire Airways* provide a scheduled "Super Constellation" service between Sydney and Johannesburg via Melbourne, Perth, Cocos Islands and Mauritius and from South Africa to Australia via the same route. The *Qantas Empire Airways* service is at present once fortnightly in each direction.

No aircraft is based in Mauritius and no internal services exist.

During the course of the year new wireless telegraphy and radio-telephony equipment and landing aids were received and installed at the airport by the staff of the Aeradio Division of the Civil Aviation Department.

The meteorological services at the airport are under the control of the Director of Observatory, who is responsible for providing forecasts and all other meteorological information required and meteorological observers are stationed at the airport.

Apart from normal air-ground telecommunication services daily point-to-point schedules were maintained throughout 1956 with East Africa (Nairobi), Madagascar, South Africa, Reunion and Cocos Islands. Daily point-to-point services for meteorological purposes were also maintained with St. Brandon, Agaléga, Diego Garcia and Rodrigues.

The total number of landings and take offs at Plaisance airport during the year amounted to 342. The number of incoming and outgoing passengers was 9,725 including 2,060 passengers in transit, as compared with 7,970 during 1955. Incoming and outgoing freight amounted to 150,992.237 kilos and mails carried to 31,802.484 kilos.

All aircraft calling at Plaisance were refuelled by the Refuelling Division at the airport. The total amount of aviation spirit and oil used for refuelling aircraft amounted to 336,088 Imperial gallons and 2,528 Imperial gallons respectively.

RAILWAYS

The public railway system of Mauritius (4'-8½" gauge) is operated by the Government. The railway network has 82 miles of line varying between sea level and an altitude of 1,800 feet. Both

passenger and goods services were maintained up to the 31st March, on which date the last passenger train ran on the Port Louis—Curepipe line. By law heavy goods (manufactured sugar, fertilizers, coal and gunny bags) must be transported by rail.

The deficit on the working of the railways amounted to Rs 1,458,822 for the financial year 1955–56.

Statistics for the financial year ended the 30th June, 1956, are as follows:—

Length of line open to traffic	...	Miles	82
Passengers carried	...	Number	614,396
Passenger Receipts	...	Rs	76,276
Parcels carried	...	Number	18,613
Parcels receipts	...	Rs	9,785
Goods Traffic :			
Sugar	...	Tons	444,200
Sugar Cane	...	Tons	1,968
General Merchandise	...	Tons	46,034
Goods Traffic Receipts :			
Sugar	...	Rs	3,418,283
Sugar Cane	...	Rs	3,448
General Merchandise	...	Rs	226,731
Train Mileage	...	Train Miles	154,196
Receipts per Train Mile	...	Rs	26.21
Expenditure per Train Mile	...	Rs	37.57
Road Motor Service:			
Total Passenger Vehicle	Miles	Vehicle Miles	121,958
Passengers carried	...	Number	343,963
Passenger Receipts	...	Rs	78,332
Parcels carried	...	Number	1,664
Parcels receipts	...	Rs	615
Goods Traffic:			
Sugar	...	Tons	31,252
General Merchandise	...	Tons	12,177
Goods Receipts :			
Sugar	...	Rs	196,322
General Merchandise	...	Rs	67,948
Number of vehicles in service:			
10 lorries and 7 trailers	...		
1 dual purpose vehicle	...		
2 buses	...		

R O A D S

Mauritius is provided with an extensive road system, consisting of some 736 miles of public main and branch roads, most of which are suitable for motor traffic. All the roads are metalled and about 377 miles are bitumen coated. Practically all the main roads are open to heavy motor vehicles, but owing to rapid development in road traffic during the past twenty years many of the roads are too narrow for moderately fast transport to operate in safety. There are also numerous blind corners and very populous villages to travel through, while the roads are further congested by the slow moving goods transport and the large public transport vehicles.

The maintenance of proclaimed main and branch roads continued in the normal manner and improvements were carried out to some of the existing tarred surfaces. An additional 12.5 miles of road was asphalted.

The Public Works Department is responsible for the maintenance of proclaimed roads and District Councils for unproclaimed roads.

ROAD TRANSPORT

There were 10,882 motor vehicles registered in the Island in 1956 as compared with 10,066 in 1955, classified as:

Private cars	...	...	...	...	6,123
Lorries	...	...	...	...	2,181
Taxis	...	...	...	...	974
Buses	...	...	...	...	356
Motor Cycles	...	...	...	...	726
Tractors	...	...	...	...	152
Government Vehicles	...	...	...	...	370

The figure for private cars includes 119 vans and 70 jeeps, licensed as private cars and the figure for lorries includes 300 vans licensed as carriers.

The bus fleets had increased to a total of 343 vehicles in use at the end of 1956. The repair, maintenance, and construction of coachwork improved. An average of 100,000 passengers travelled daily by bus.

There were 1,859 goods vehicles in use in 1956—an increase of 89 over the preceding year's figure. They are used mainly in connexion with the sugar industry for conveying cane to the factories and other materials to sugar estates. The trend towards replacing tramway haulage in the cane fields by motor vehicles and the extended acreage under cultivation have no doubt contributed substantially to the increase in the number of vehicles licensed.

VEHICLE LICENSING

The annual licence duties payable in respect of motor vehicles are as follows:

	Rs.
(a) Motor cycles, per H.P.	6
(b) Private cars, per H.P.	8
(c)—(i) Taxis not exceeding 10 H.P.	108
(ii) For every additional H.P.	8
(d)—(i) Motor buses not more than 10 H.P. and having a seating capacity for not more than 20 passengers	512
(ii) for every additional H.P.	8
(c)—(i) Motor lorries not exceeding 10 H.P.	200
(ii) for every additional H.P.	8
(iii) per metric ton of maximum gross weight or fraction thereof	40

Public service and goods vehicles are licensed quarterly at proportional rates. Licence duty in respect of motor cycles and private cars may be effected quarterly or yearly at the owner's option.

Visitors' licences, at the following rates, are payable in respect of privately owned motor cars and motor cycles belonging to persons on temporary visits to the Colony not exceeding 3 months:

Private cars Rs 10 per month irrespective of H.P.

Motor cycles Rs 2 per month irrespective of H.P.

No licence fee is charged on a privately owned car or motor cycle for a short stay in the Colony not exceeding one week.

POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Posts and Telegraphs Department is responsible for the postal and telegraph services of the Colony and operates the Post Office Savings Bank. It also acts as an agent for a number of Government departments in so far as the collection of certain revenue and the making of certain payments are concerned. The Money Order Service is available for all parts of the world, and the British Postal Order Service for most Commonwealth countries.

The main Post Office is in Port Louis. There are besides 33 post offices and 41 postal agencies spread throughout the Island and all classes of postal and telegraph business are transacted. Postal facilities are also available in Rodrigues.

Air mail connection with all parts of the world is maintained by means of the services, operated by *Air France* and *Qantas Empire Airways*. Air mail postage rates are charged on weight units of 5 grammes. The air mail postage rate to Europe and to India and Pakistan, the principal destinations of the Colony's outward correspondence, is 60 cents for 5 grammes. The Aerogramme or Air Letter Service operates to all destinations at the uniform rate of 35 cents.

The number of postal items handled during 1956 was approximately as follows:

Air Mail	...	...	2,395,530
Overseas surface mail			893,230
Inland Mail	...	...	5,834,530

Mauritius is linked to the rest of the world by cables and by radio installations which are operated and maintained by Cable and Wireless Limited. The Company has an office, a cable station and a radio station in Port Louis, and a cable station and an emergency radio installation in Rodrigues. The major part of the foreign telegraph traffic concerns Port Louis and outward and inward

telegrams from or for the Capital are accepted, for transmission or delivery, direct by Cable and Wireless Limited. Elsewhere foreign telegrams are received at post offices and transmitted over land lines operated by the Posts and Telegraphs Department to the General Post Office in Port Louis, for outward transmission by Cable and Wireless: inward telegrams received by Cable and Wireless Limited are similarly transmitted by the General Post Office over the land lines to post offices for delivery.

There are 210 miles of inland telegraph lines and the number of inland telegrams handled during 1956 was 13,165 as compared with 15,487 during 1955.

The Department of Telecommunications (Constitution) Ordinance (No. 24 of 1956), which came into force on the 1st July, provided for the establishment of the Department of Telecommunications and for the transfer to the Director of Telecommunications of the functions and duties formerly assigned to and the powers conferred upon the Director of Electricity and Telephones. The functions of the Department may be briefly summarised as follows:

- (a) operation of the public telephone system;
- (b) maintenance of the public telegraph service on behalf of the Posts and Telegraphs Department;
- (c) enforcement of the provisions of the Radio-Communication Ordinance (Cap. 96);
- (d) control of radio licences and collection of licence fees;
- (e) operation of the ship-to-shore W/T service and the reception and transmission of meteorological traffic on behalf of the Observatory;
- (f) installation and maintenance of radio equipment in Government buildings;
- (g) installation and maintenance of electric lighting and power services in Government buildings, including hospitals and the Government Railways;
- (h) installation and maintenance of telephones and telegraphs on behalf of the Railway Department.

There are 14 telephone exchanges in the Island, of which four (those serving Port Louis, Rose Hill, Vacoas and Curepipe) are manual and the remainder automatic. The automatic exchanges are situated at Rose Belle, Souillac, Rivière des Anguilles, Mahébourg, Pamplemousses, Long Mountain, Flacq, Moka, Pailles and Quartier Militaire. A new automatic exchange for Rose Hill is provided for in the Colony's Capital Expenditure Programme 1955-1960.

At the close of the year there were 5,321 exchange lines, 10,812 miles of telephone wires and 7,282 telephone stations in service. The number of effective telephone calls originated during 1956 amounted to 6,701,594 as compared with 6,243,854 during 1955.

In order to improve the standard of service and to provide more junction facilities between exchanges, a new underground telephone cable for installation between Curepipe and Mahebourg Exchanges has been ordered and received. A second cable has also been ordered to link Rose Belle to Chemin Grenier *via* Rivière des Anguilles and Souillac. When this work and the installation of additional automatic exchanges at Nouvelle France, Plaine Magnien, Camp Diable, L'Escalier and Chemin Grenier has been completed as contemplated in the Capital Expenditure Programme the South of the Island will have the means of efficient and speedy telephone communications. Equipment has also been ordered for additional automatic exchanges at Mapou and Rivière du Rempart in the North.

The Department of Telecommunications operates a ship-to-shore radio station at Vacoas which communicates with ships within a radius varying between 600 and 1,200 miles of Mauritius according to atmospheric conditions. The station handled 8,805 radiotelegrams during 1956 as compared with 12,301 during 1955.

Chapter 12 : Press, Broadcasting, Government Information Office and Films

THE PRESS

The history of the press in Mauritius has been traced as far back as 1773. One of the existing daily newspapers has had an uninterrupted existence of over 125 years and another one of 48 years. The languages used are French, English, Hindi and Chinese.

The following is a list of newspapers published in Mauritius:

DAILY	WEEKLY
<i>Advance</i>	<i>Aryoday</i>
<i>China Times</i>	<i>L'Épée</i>
<i>Chinese Daily News</i>	<i>Mauritius Times</i>
<i>New Chinese Commercial Paper</i>	<i>La Vie Catholique</i>
<i>Latest News</i>	
<i>Le Cernéen</i>	FORTNIGHTLY
<i>Le Mauricien</i>	<i>J.O. et Tribune Libre</i>
<i>The New Era</i>	<i>Le Progrès Islamique</i>
	<i>La Voix de l'Islam</i>
TWICE WEEKLY	<i>Zamana</i>
<i>Janata</i>	

Many periodicals of general interest are also published.

BROADCASTING

Before the Second World War, broadcasting in Mauritius was operated by a private commercial concern. During the war there were three stations in the Island, all partially or wholly controlled by the Government. In 1944 the Government decided to assume sole responsibility for broadcasting in the Colony and it set up its own organization, "The Mauritius Broadcasting Service", which broadcasts material of a non-commercial nature.

Since 1944 the number of radio licences has increased from 2,746 to 23,354, of which 2,251 were in respect of new radio sets licensed in 1956.

In 1955-56 the recurrent expenditure of the Mauritius Broadcasting Service amounted to Rs 294,695 as compared with total revenue of Rs 288,361 derived from wireless licences.

The implementation of a scheme for the technical improvement of the Mauritius Broadcasting Service is being financed partly from local funds and partly from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. By the end of the financial year Rs 194,490 had been spent on a transmitter building and on the purchase of new equipment.

The Mauritius Broadcasting Service owns a $1\frac{1}{2}$ Kw short wave transmitter and a 5 Kw medium wave transmitter broadcasting on 19.88 metres and 220 metres respectively, both of which are located at Forest Side in the district of Plaines Wilhems in a building which also houses the studios, the news service organization and the administrative section.

The Mauritius Broadcasting Service goes on the air for an average of $57\frac{1}{2}$ hours a week in four daily transmissions in the course of which English, French, Hindustani and two Chinese dialects are spoken. It also broadcasts token programmes in Tamil, Hindi, Urdu, Telegu and Swahili.

Owing to lack of local professional artists, the programmes are mainly made up of recorded music and of transcription recordings from the British Broadcasting Corporation and the *Radiodiffusion et Télévision Française*. The evening transmissions, however, include a fair proportion of 'live' items. Six news bulletins—one in English, four in French and one in Hindustani—covering a total of one hour are broadcast daily.

The Education Department broadcasts weekly during term time five programmes of 15 minutes' duration each.

The Globe Reuter News Service is monitored by the Mauritius Broadcasting Service which distributes daily 117 duplicated copies of world news to the local press, Government departments and the Military Authorities.

INFORMATION SERVICES

The Information Officer keeps the public informed of the activities and policies of Government through the press, the broadcasting service and the mobile cinema units, with the object of bringing about a closer association between Government and the public. Information conveyed to the newspapers in the form of communiqués, press releases are readily accepted for publication. The number of notices and press releases issued by the Information Officer in 1956 continued to increase and the total for the year under review reached 955. Payment for two-thirds of this number was claimed by the press at the special rate agreed upon and the remaining one-third was published free of charge. Statements on important measures and changes in policy are also broadcast over the Mauritius Broadcasting Service.

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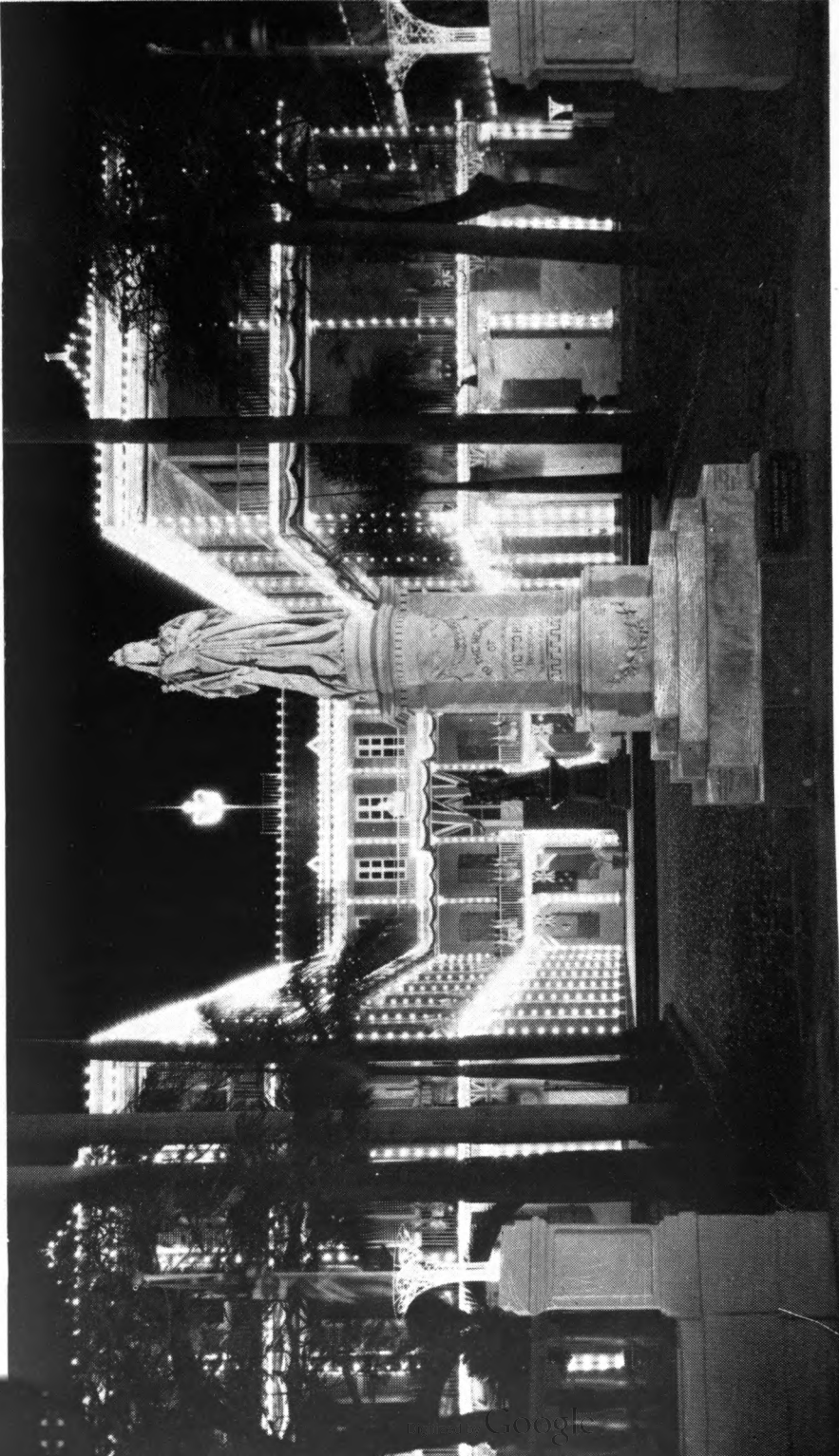
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GOVERNMENT HOUSE, PORT LOUIS, ILLUMINATED ON THE OCCASION OF THE ROYAL VISIT

A press conference afforded journalists the opportunity to meet Mr. W. H. Chinn, Social Welfare Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Press conferences were also held at which heads of departments dealt with points concerning the activities of their departments.

An increasing number of visitors including journalists from overseas called at the Information Office and were put in touch with officials and other personalities as appropriate.

The principal routine services performed by the Office are the preparation of a daily report on the local press and a weekly summary of leading articles and other important items. A press-cutting service designed for heads of departments is also operated by the Office. Good use was made of the translation facilities available at the Office. The distribution of books, pamphlets, periodicals, photographs and publicity material to public libraries, schools and village councils is one of the chief activities of the Office. The second edition of a leaflet containing information on the Island was published for distribution to visitors and overseas correspondents and was found very useful by visiting journalists. The increasing demand for copies from the Imperial Institute and from local primary and secondary schools, Government departments, shipping agencies and the Mauritius Tourist and Travel Bureau testified to its usefulness.

Continuing the dissemination of information about Mauritius in Great Britain and in other countries, articles and photographs on developments in Mauritius were published in "The Illustrated London News", "The Times British Colonies Review", 'To-day' (the illustrated magazine published by the Central Office of Information in London), and in a number of technical publications.

On the occasion of World Health Day special film shows were given by the mobile cinema units in rural areas.

The Information Officer is called upon annually to revise the sections devoted to Mauritius in reference books. Notes on Mauritius were prepared for inclusion in three new books.

THE ROYAL VISIT

A considerable amount of work was naturally involved by press and publicity arrangements in connection with the visit of Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret. This fell upon the Information Officer and the Press Officer appointed for the occasion.

Mr. R. N. Lindsay, Press Coordinating Officer for the Royal Tour of East Africa and Mauritius, spent a week in Mauritius before the Royal Visit to discuss facilities to be provided locally for visiting press representatives in the way of accommodation, transport, press room, communications, etc.

The accredited overseas representatives of press, radio and film numbered thirty-two. In addition there were twenty-eight accredited local journalists and photographers, two official photographers and two official cameramen. The party sometimes totalled sixty-four. It was the first time that Mauritius had played host to such a large party of journalists.

A press room was set up at the Park Hotel, Curepipe, and a subsidiary press room was provided at the Information Office, Port Louis. Thanks to the invaluable cooperation of the Garrison Commander, Cable and Wireless Ltd. and Government departments satisfactory arrangements were made for the transmission of cables, pictures and voicecasts. Some 87,240 words were cabled and thirty-four pictures were despatched to London. The Royal Yacht kindly handled a limited number of radio-photo transmissions.

The Information Office published a printed programme for the press. It contained notes on publicity arrangements, a description of the places to be visited by Her Royal Highness and notes on prominent personalities.

Never before had Mauritius received as much publicity as on this Royal occasion. The coverage given by the press in the United Kingdom to the share of Mauritius in the Royal Tour amounted to 511 column inches of copy and thirty-nine pictures. This figure is exclusive of the material which was published outside U.K.

F I L M S

A 16 mm. colour film covering the Royal visit "And the Princess Came . . ." was taken by the Visual Education Branch of the Education Department and was sent to England for processing.

Attending the cinema is one of the most popular recreations in Mauritius and films are consequently an effective instrument for reaching the people in rural areas. The shows given by the mobile cinema units of the Information Office were attended by an audience estimated at more than three hundred thousand. According to information compiled by the office, annual attendances at shows in the commercial cinemas exceeded four million people. Most of the more important villages now have a local cinema hall.

Increasing demand was made on the film loan service of the Information Office. Over 1,080 films, against 820 during the previous year, were circulated free of charge.

The distribution of the 35mm version of "British News" is a responsibility of the Information Office. The three main cinema companies receive one copy of each issue for which they pay a hire fee. Documentary films supplied by the Central Office of Information are circulated free of charge to the cinema companies.

Chapter 13: Local Forces

THE ARMY

For the Garrison in Mauritius this year has been one of re-organisation. The Depot of the Royal Pioneer Corps (Mauritius) closed down at the end of March and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps Depot at Fort George followed suit in September. The 1st (Mauritius) Coast Battery Royal Artillery, in common with Coast Batteries throughout the Commonwealth, is in process of disbandment and will cease to exist early in the New Year. Mauritius is to remain a Flag Station and a Saluting Station, however, the latter responsibility having been taken over by the King's African Rifles.

In November the Detachment of the 6th Bn King's African Rifles was relieved by the 26th Bn King's African Rifles. Colonel P. G. L. Cousens, who relieved Colonel A. G. de Carteret as Garrison Commander in March, now combines the latter function with that of Commanding Officer of the Garrison battalion.

In common with the rest of Mauritius, the highlight of the year for the Garrison was the visit of Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret at the end of September. The Garrison played a full part during the Royal Visit providing Guards of Honour, night guards at Le Réduit, assistance to the Royal Yacht and a despatch rider service for the benefit of the Press. Her Royal Highness was entertained to luncheon at the Military Leave Club at Le Chaland during the visit.

As in other years, Guards of Honour were provided and parades held for the Queen's Birthday, for Bastille Day, for Remembrance Day and for the ceremonial opening of the Legislative Council.

The new War Memorial at Phoenix Cemetery was unveiled on the 11th November by the Officer Administering the Government. This memorial commemorates those members of the Allied Forces who died during the Second World War in Mauritius and the Dependencies but who are not buried in this Cemetery.

MAURITIUS NAVAL VOLUNTEER FORCE

The Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force completed its seventh year of service on the 30th September.

On the 31st December the strength of the Force was 11 non-continuous service ratings, 42 volunteer ratings and 15 probationary new entries. Selection Boards for entry into the Force have been held every three months, and recruits carry out twelve weeks'

training before final entry for three years' enrolment is allowed. Although recruits are readily forthcoming the strength of the Force increases slowly: during the year three ratings were discharged on completion of their service, two on leaving Mauritius, two on entry Force at Camp on the 3rd November and afterwards spent some hours at sea in MFV 189.

Voluntary Drills were held as usual every Monday and Friday evenings at M.N.V.F. Headquarters, Port Louis, and have been well attended. All-day sea training has been carried out on an average twice a week, while shorter periods of sea training were carried out by instructional classes during Drills.

Annual Training, attended this year by the record number of 61 ratings, took place as usual at Cannoniers Point from the 22nd October to the 4th November. The Governor inspected the Force at Camp on the 3rd November and afterwards spent some hours at sea in MFV 189.

The Force played an important part during the Royal Visit. *Sambur* carried out the duties of Guard Boat on the arrival of the Royal Yacht on the 29th September and again on her departure on the 1st October. The Force provided a Guard of Honour at Government House, Port Louis, for the arrival and departure of Her Royal Highness. In addition, the Force provided armed sentries, communication ratings, and ratings for crowd control at Quay D, where the Royal Yacht was berthed, during daylight hours throughout the Royal Visit.

The Force provided a ceremonial platoon of one officer and 24 ratings for The Queen's Birthday parade on the 31st May, and a platoon of one officer and 30 ratings for the Remembrance Day parade on the 11th November.

The annual visit of the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station, which should have taken place in July, was unfortunately cancelled and therefore no Annual Inspection of the Force took place in 1956. In addition to the Royal Yacht, H. M. Submarine *Tally Ho* visited Mauritius from the 4th to the 9th October, and H.M.N.Z.S. *Royalist* from the 1st to the 2nd December.

Commander C. R. E. de Jersey, R.N. (retd), returned to Mauritius and resumed duty as Commanding Officer, M.N.V.F. on the 26th August, Lieutenant-Commander G. N. J. Hooper, R.N., having left the Colony on the 15th August after eight months' service in command of the Force.

Chapter 14: General

THE MAURITIUS INSTITUTE

The Mauritius Institute traces its origin to the year 1880 when an Ordinance was passed "to establish and incorporate a Public Institute, to be called the Mauritius Institute, a Public Museum and a Public Library, for the purposes of promoting the general study and cultivation of the various branches and departments of Arts, Science, Literature and Philosophy, and for the instruction and recreation of the people".

The foundation stone of the present building was laid on the 23rd November, 1880, by Sir George Bowen, then Governor. The building was completed in 1884 and in the course of the following year the Natural History Museum, known as the "Desjardins Museum", until then housed in a wing of the Royal College in Port Louis, was transferred to the new building. The public library was opened in 1903, following the munificent bequest of the Sir Virgile Naz Library which forms the nucleus of the present collection. The Institute has expanded its activities over the years and to-day it comprises a Public Library, a Natural History Museum, an Historical Museum, and a small Art Gallery.

The Institute is managed by a Board of Directors consisting of eight members appointed annually by the Governor and of such persons as may be recommended by any literary or scientific society associated with the Institute. The staff consists of a Director, a Librarian, a Curator, and eight other officers.

The Public Library

The Mauritius Institute Public Library is free to readers, but a deposit of Rs 10 is required from borrowers. The stock of about 50,000 volumes comprises an almost equal number of French and English fiction and non-fiction books and a small percentage of Oriental books. A large variety of periodicals are also received at regular intervals and placed at the disposal of readers.

The library has a valuable collection of Mauritian and a reference section on the natural history of the Mascarene islands and the neighbouring regions. The library of the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius forms part of this section.

Several changes and improvements have been made in the library generally. The number of registered borrowers has increased from about 200 in 1945 to more than a thousand in 1956, while the number of visits of readers who frequented the library during the year was of the order of 26,000.

The Natural History Museum

The Natural History Museum is mainly regional in character and contains representative collections of the fauna, flora and geology of Mauritius and of the neighbouring islands. The Museum was closed during the year on account of structural alterations to the building and a re-arrangement of the exhibits on an educational and ecological basis.

The bird section contains specimens of most of the one hundred species of the birds of Mauritius. They have been grouped as shore birds, marsh birds, sea birds, game birds and land birds. The endemic species, of which nine are still found out of a total of twenty-four, are displayed separately. The extinct species are shown by means of feathered restorations and paintings, and in some cases by actual skeletons. The Dodo is exhibited together with its relatives which inhabited the neighbouring islands of Réunion and Rodrigues. The species which was found in Réunion was known as the "White Dodo"; it is known only from historical evidence and by a 17th century painting, a reproduction of which is exhibited in the Museum. The Rodrigues *Solitaire* is exemplified by a genuine skeleton and by a water-colour reproduction of the feathered bird. The Museum also possesses the only known skeleton of the Mauritius flightless Red Hen (*Aphanapteryx bonasia*) and one of the three stuffed examples of the Mauritius Dutch Pigeon (*Alectroenas nitidissima*), a species which became extinct about one hundred years ago.

In the mammal section are found examples of the very few species occurring in the Island which, with the exception of bats, have all been introduced by man at various times. These include the Javanese Deer imported by the Dutch, a Borneo Macaque released in the Island by the Portuguese, the Wild Pig and the Indian Hare.

In the reptile section are exhibited examples of the giant species of tortoises, extinct or still living, peculiar to the Indian Ocean islands, and of various kinds of turtles found in the region. The geckos, lizards and snakes of the Island are exhibited, including the very curious Round Island snakes, two species of which are found and are considered to be "living fossils".

The fish section displays examples of the numerous species found in the territorial waters of the island, all of them stuffed and painted in their natural colours. Fresh-water fishes, comprising about twenty-five species, some indigenous, others introduced, are also exhibited.

A large number of Echinoderms (sea-stars and urchins) live in the region and examples of nearly all the species, including a few almost unique ones, are represented in the Museum.

The mollusca section has a rich collection and the Island is reputed for its extremely large variety of sea-shells, though most of these occur as well in all the Indo-Pacific region. The land shell fauna, comprising about two hundred species, is less spectacular but is scientifically more important, as many groups are peculiar to the island. The fresh water mollusca are insignificant, except from a medical point of view, one species being known to transmit a serious disease.

The museum also possesses local collections of crustaceans, insects, corals and plants.

Biological Research

The very interesting remnants of the indigenous land fauna and flora, together with the rich marine life of the surrounding seas present excellent opportunities for biological research. Scientific collections of all groups are made and these are studied overseas and locally by experts, the results being published in the Mauritius Institute Bulletin and in specialized publications abroad.

Art Gallery

A small art gallery is attached to the Port Louis Museum, consisting mainly of a collection of paintings presented to the Institute in 1921 by the late Mr. Edgar de Roche Couste. This collection includes a certain number of paintings of well-known artists, such as Ziem, Le Sidaner, Harpignies, and Jacques-Emile Blanche. A small section is devoted to the works of local artists.

The Historical Museum

A subsidiary museum devoted to local history has been opened in an old French house at Mahébourg recently acquired by Government. It was in this house that Monsieur de Robillard, the French Commandant of Grand Port, received the two wounded commanders of the English and French squadrons, admirals Willoughby and Duperré, during the well-known naval battle of August, 1810. Several objects connected with this episode and recovered one hundred and twenty-four years later from the wreck of the *Magicienne*, one of the English frigates sunk in Grand Port bay during the engagement, are exhibited. These objects include a portion of the ship's hull, several heavy guns and carronades, cannon balls, grape-shot, copper coins, pieces of sailor's uniform and various other relics.

The capture of the Island by the British at the beginning of December, 1810, is illustrated by a series of coloured prints drawn on the spot by Temple.

A section of the museum is devoted to the display of a valuable collection of maps, charts, engravings and watercolours (many in original) which serve to introduce the visitor to the various periods of the history of Mauritius from its discovery to the present time. Worthy of special mention in this section are a portulan map published at Amsterdam in 1595 (probably the most accurate map of the region available at the time of the first Dutch visit to Mauritius in 1590), an English map of Mauritius by Mount and Page published in 1745 and derived from a Dutch source, Abbé de la Caille's map (1753) which is the first accurate map of the Island, Bellin's map of 1763, and two maps by Lislet Geoffroy, published by the British Admiralty in 1813 and 1814. Modern maps are also shown, including the fine one-inch map by Descubes (1880) which is of great practical interest as it indicates the site of over a thousand concessions.

Among the series of lithographs and water-colours recording the life, scenery and customs of different periods may be noted six water-colours by Kelsey (early 1840's), coloured prints by Thuillier, coloured lithographs by Bradshaw and Rider (1831-32), water-colours by Leroy (1860's), and a water-colour panoramic view of Mauritius, sketched from Port Louis harbour by Augustus Earle who was on board the *Beagle* when Charles Darwin visited Mauritius in 1836.

A few pieces of local furniture belonging to the French Governor Mahé de Labourdonnais (1699-1753) and exhibits from the East Indiaman *Kent* which was captured by Robert Surcouf, *Roi des Corsaires*, in the Bay of Bengal in October, 1800, are on view.

Relics connected with the activities of the French privateers in the Indian Ocean at the beginning of the 19th century are also displayed.

Part of a room of the Museum is devoted to the history of transport in Mauritius exemplified by two *palanquins* and a *chaise à porteurs* which were in use before the era of roads and wheeled traffic.

A small exhibit is devoted to the history of the famous "Post Office" stamp of Mauritius (1847) and is illustrated by reprints of the stamp.

Among miscellaneous items of interest may be cited: maps and objects rescued from some memorable shipwrecks in the region,

the portraits or busts of certain French and British Governors (Mahé de Labourdonnais, Charles Decaen, Robert Farquhar, Lowry Cole, John Pope Hennessy), and the Roll of Honour of the Mauritian soldiers who lost their lives in the Second World War.

Learned Societies

The following scientific and literary societies are associated with the Mauritius Institute:—

(1) *The Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius* was founded in 1829 under the name of *Société d'Histoire Naturelle* and was honoured in 1847 by the permission of Queen Victoria to add the word "Royal" to its name. Its activities extend to most branches of natural history. Lectures on science and art are delivered by its members from time to time and also by visiting professors, artists and scientists. Proceedings of the Society, containing papers read before the Society, are published annually. The Society owns a library which contains many rare and valuable books and periodicals on natural history.

(2) *The Société de Technologie Agricole et Sucrière de Maurice* is a technical body founded in 1910 and devoted to the study of questions relating to agriculture and to sugar technology. The papers and proceedings of the Society are published in the bi-monthly *Revue Agricole*.

(3) *The Société des Ecrivains Mauriciens* was founded in 1938 with the object of encouraging the publication of literary works, and of establishing contacts with literary institutions overseas.

(4) *The Indian Cultural Association* was founded in 1936 with the object of promoting Indian culture in Mauritius and of fostering spiritual ties with India. It publishes a quarterly journal called "The Indian Cultural Review".

(5) *The Société de l'Histoire de l'Île Maurice* was founded in 1938 to foster and encourage the study of the Colony's history by the collection of documents on local history, publication of historical works, and the organisation of historical exhibitions and lectures.

One of the principal activities of the Society has been the production of the Dictionary of Mauritian Biography, twenty-four parts of which have already appeared. These contain about one thousand biographies of persons connected with Mauritius by birth or residence.

The Society awards prizes to schoolchildren to encourage the study of Mauritian history. It keeps in touch and exchanges

publications with institutions of like interests overseas and collects material from the Archives at the Cape, The Hague, Batavia, Paris, London and Lisbon.

THE MAURITIUS ARCHIVES

The Mauritius Archives Office is not only one of the oldest departments of the Colony, dating from the early years of the French settlement, but it is also one of the oldest archive centres of the Southern Hemisphere, ranking only after the Cape and Réunion repositories.

Under French rule the Office was a branch of the *Conseil Supérieur* and received special attention from the authorities. An early instance of the interest of the French Government in colonial archives is provided by the edict of 1770, which set up a central *Dépôt des Chartes des Colonies* at Versailles and enacted regulation for their better preservation. Another important measure was the establishment in Mauritius in 1808 of a *Dépôt des Cartes de la Marine* which, for a long time, supplied sailors and travellers in the South Indian Ocean with valuable information.

At the time of the land fighting which led to the surrender of the Island by the French, the local archives were removed from Port Louis to a safer place of custody in Plaines Wilhems and thus escaped damage. In 1815, after the final cession of Mauritius to Great Britain, they were handed over to the British Authorities in an almost complete state, as comparatively few of the records were retained by the French Government.

Until 1949 the Archives were attached to the Registrar General's Department, and from January, 1950, to the Central Administration. By the Archives Ordinance (No. 71 of 1952) they were transferred to an Archives Department which is now the central repository of all public archives.

The Archives Office is now divided into the following sections:

- (i) the Repository which comprises, *inter alia*, the records of the old French Administration (1721-1810), records of the British Administration (from 1810), notarial records, and private records;
- (ii) the Library which, besides being the official registry of all publications issued in Mauritius, contains Mauritian printed abroad, reference books on general history, colonial history and archivology with a section devoted to collections of stamps, seals, currency notes and other materials;

- (iii) the Land Registry which comprises the records of the former Land Court, memoranda of survey deposited by sworn land surveyors, with a section containing maps, charts and plans.

The Department is also equipped with a photostat and a duostat for the photocopying of records and the supply of copies to Government departments and to the public.

The control and disposal of records is supervised by the Public Archives Records Destruction Committee. The Chief Archivist also inspects regularly archives in the custody of agencies other than the main repository.

Publications include the annual report, the quarterly *Memo-randa* of books and periodicals issued in Mauritius and registered in the Archives, and the publications issued by the Archives Publication Fund Committee (established in 1951).

The bibliographical survey of Mauritiana started in 1951 was completed in February, 1955. The book, including about 1,000 pages and comprising altogether 8,865 entries, came out in 1956 under the title of *Bibliography of Mauritius, 1502-1954*. It is not just a descriptive bibliography of the usual type; it is rather a manual of documentation with a much fuller scope, compiled with particular attention to historical development and with the main object of meeting the needs of those interested in history. To keep it up to date, it is proposed to issue every year as an appendix to the *Annual Report of the Archives Department* a bibliographical supplement including additional material recorded during each successive year from 1955 onwards. Supplement No. 1 (1955) is annexed to the *Annual Report* for 1955.

In 1956 the Mauritius Archives Publication Fund Committee issued its third publication entitled: *Répertoire des Archives de l'Île de France pendant la régie de la Compagnie des Indes (1715-1768)*.

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

The year has on the whole been an encouraging one for the Council, although the work has naturally been affected by the transfer of Mr. Morton and the appointment of a new Representative. The Council Centre in Rose Hill broadened and expanded its activities and showed a steady increase in membership with a corresponding increase in the use of the library and reading room. The exhibition of British feature films (shown in collaboration with the Education Department) proved highly successful, and lectures

on the " British System of Government ", " British Drama " and " The Pronunciation of English " attracted large and interested audiences.

While therefore the Centre has become the Council's principal agency for presenting Britain and the British way of life, the Council has not relaxed its efforts towards securing and maintaining contact with Mauritians outside the larger centres of population. Films are shown, lectures arranged, books lent and periodicals distributed to schools, clubs and organisations in all parts of the Island. It is hoped that these opportunities for learning about British institutions and methods will be of practical use in the villages.

In May the Representative held the annual course for students proceeding for higher studies in the United Kingdom. The course was attended by 40 students, most of whom were subsequently assisted on their arrival in the United Kingdom by the Council. One Mauritian was awarded a four months' bursary to study the organisation of public transport, Visitors' Department dealt with a steady stream of Mauritians wishing to pursue some particular interest while in the United Kingdom.

The year under review, if unspectacular, has marked an intensification of the Council's work in Mauritius in the promotion of closer relations in cultural matters between the people of Britain and Mauritius.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL AND CULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS

British Medical Association, Mauritius Branch

A branch of the British Medical Association was founded in 1939. Membership is granted to all medical practitioners who have qualified for registration in Mauritius, including those holding French qualifications. The Branch represents the majority of the doctors in the Island and close collaboration is maintained between Government and the profession. The Branch is frequently consulted by the Government.

The Mauritius Dental Association

The Association, founded in June, 1955, represents the dental profession in the Island and is affiliated to the British Dental Association. Membership is open to all dental practitioners qualified for registration in Mauritius.

Le Cercle Littéraire de Port Louis

The principal object of this Society is to seek to bring together all those interested in French culture and ideas. Its aims are to

encourage, by means of annual competitions and public lectures, the study of the French language and literature. A review, *L'Essor*, is published by this Society.

Alliance Française

The Mauritius Branch of the Alliance Française was founded in 1884 with the object of encouraging the study of the French language by means of French courses in schools and annual examinations as well as meetings and conferences on French literature and art.

Mauritius Dramatic Club

The first record of an organised amateur theatrical production in Mauritius goes back as far as the 25th April, 1848, when officers of the 5th Battalion, the Northumberland Fusiliers, staged three one-act plays at the Port Louis Theatre.

A Mauritius Amateur Dramatic Club was formed in 1898 and stage productions and play readings were regularly featured until the 1914-1918 War.

The present Mauritius Dramatic Club owes its origin to a revival in theatrical activity which began in early 1920 and which ultimately led to the formation of the Club in 1932. Since then stage plays, play readings and broadcasts have been frequently presented.

The Vacoas House of Debaters

This association, founded in 1936, takes a special interest in general educational and cultural development.

Fortnightly meetings are held for debates and plays, and occasional radio programmes are presented on the Mauritius Broadcasting Service. Lectures by eminent outside personalities are delivered from time to time.

A Scholarship Fund, authorized by Government, provides for the educational needs of pupil-members taking a secondary course of studies. A girls' section was started in January, 1952, for the benefit of girls of 12 and upwards.

Volley ball, table-tennis, outings, open air camping are some of the recreational activities.

The Mental and Physical Culture Association

The principal aims of this Association are to encourage the study of the English language and literature and to assist its members to obtain facilities for enjoying sports such as tennis and football.

The Hindi Pracharini Sabha and the Mauritius Hindi Parishad

These societies were established with the object of promoting and encouraging the study of Hindi in Mauritius. Efforts are being made by the managing committees to produce a uniform curriculum and to improve the standard of teaching. Collaboration with the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan of Allahabad, India, is maintained for the holding of examinations in higher Hindi in Mauritius.

The P.E.N. Club de l'Océan Indien

The Mauritius section of the "Fédération Internationale des P.E.N. Clubs" was founded in Mauritius in 1951. It seeks to promote a spirit of understanding and friendship among the writers of all sections of the community and also among those of the neighbouring islands.

The Young Men's Christian Association

The Association celebrated its tenth anniversary in 1956 with a special show of the Centennial Film.

The English Association

Founded in 1946, the English Association is the outcome of a movement started by a group of English and Mauritian ladies and gentlemen with the prime object of helping Mauritian secondary school children who were learning English to a better knowledge of the tongue and to a fuller acquaintance with English literature and culture. These school children, usually weak in spoken English through lack of practice, were above all to be given opportunities of speaking English and of hearing it spoken by English people.

The Association, which has a membership of about 60 and works in close co-operation with the British Council, tries to achieve its aims by engaging in as many activities as possible likely to be of assistance to students of English language and literature. Film shows, dramatic performances, and broadcasts in English are arranged for school children and essay-writing competitions are held. Above all, annual competitions in elocution, acting and choral singing are held and the prize-winners take part in a public recital. The number of schools taking part in these competitions is steadily increasing.

The Association has since its foundation been honoured with the patronage of the Governors of the Colony, its first Patron having been Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

GEOGRAPHY

Mauritius is an island extending over an area of approximately 720 square miles and situated in the Indian Ocean between $19^{\circ} 58'$ and $20^{\circ} 32'$ South Latitude and the meridians of $57^{\circ} 17'$ and $57^{\circ} 46'$ East Longitude. It is almost surrounded by a fringing coral reef. The northern part of the Island is a fairly flat plain which rises gently towards the central plateau. Elsewhere the coastal plain is narrow and the ascent to the central plateau abrupt. Bordering the central plateau there are three main mountain ranges with rocky peaks, the highest of which is 2,711 feet. Apart from these ranges, there are many other isolated hills and peaks. There are numerous small rivers throughout the Island, the longest being about 25 miles. Most of the rivers are short and fast-flowing owing to the steepness of the slope from the central plateau to the sea. Waterfalls are not uncommon in Mauritius and some of the larger have been harnessed to supply hydro-electric power. There are only two natural lakes, Grand Bassin and Bassin Blanc. Five reservoirs supply water for domestic use, irrigation and hydro-electric purposes.

Mauritius is one of the most thickly populated countries in the world; its 720 square miles carry a population of 579,000, i.e., about 804 inhabitants per square mile—a staggering figure for an agricultural country. The population of the main towns is as follows:

Port Louis	...	...	...	80,200
Curepipe	...	...	...	25,300
Quatre Bornes	...	...	...	19,900
Rose Hill—Beau Bassin	...	...	...	32,500

The chief industry is sugar production and sugarcane fields may be seen all over the Island. From the hill tops the ground looks like an immense green lawn, regularly intersected by silver-grey and black ribbons of roads. Remnants of the native forests of the Island cover a total area of some 15,000 acres: they are to be found in the mountainous and less accessible regions. The Forest Department is actively replanting with exotic tree species—principally Pines, Eucalyptus, Camphor, Juniper, and Araucarias—those areas where secondary scrub forest has replaced native forests which were cleared many years ago in the process of extending sugarcane cultivation. All round the coast there is a fringe of either casuarina (“ filaos ”) or coconut trees.

The Colony is comparatively isolated in the Indian Ocean 500 miles east of Madagascar. Strategically, it is placed at the crossing of the sea routes linking Australia, India and the East Indies with South Africa. Ships *en route* from the Far East to South Africa call regularly at Mauritius, as do the French ships serving Réunion.

Mauritius has a number of island dependencies in the Indian Ocean. These are Rodrigues (350 miles to the east), Chagos Archipelago (1,180 miles north-east in the direction of Ceylon), Agalega and Cargados Carajos (580 miles and 250 miles respectively north of Mauritius).

Rodrigues,* the principal dependency, is a mountainous island of volcanic formation encircled by a coral reef and has a total area of about 40 square miles. It measures $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length by $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles in width and has a population of about inhabitants mostly fishermen and small cultivators.

Chagos* consists of five groups of coral islands, the biggest of which is Diego Garcia. The horseshoe-shaped ribbon of land lying just above sea-level, surrounds a lagoon thirteen miles long and between four and five miles wide. Diego Garcia was of strategic importance during World War II.

Agalega* consists of two small islands, separated by a narrow strip of sandbank. This dependency is the main source of copra for the edible oil industry of Mauritius.

The archipelago of Cargados Carajos,* usually referred to by the name of the principal islet, St. Brandon, is a fishing station leased to a Mauritian Company. At present the fish taken in the waters of St. Brandon are dried and salted for export to Mauritius.

C L I M A T E

Mauritius lies just within the tropics, but it is a small land mass without any large land area in its vicinity. It has, therefore, a maritime climate, tropical maritime during summer and subtropical in winter. This differs appreciably from the climate of a place on the same latitude on a large continent. Very high temperatures are not experienced in summer nor particularly low ones in winter. Except in localities at or near sea-level, especially along the north-west coast and during occasional dry spells, rainfall is sufficient to maintain a green cover of vegetation throughout the year. On the other hand, owing to the high relative humidity, there are periods in summer, particularly if there is little or no wind, when considerable physical discomfort is felt, especially at or near sea-level, even though the temperatures are not extremely high. On the central

* See Map at the end of Report.

plateau, which is between 1,000 and 2,000 feet above sea-level, it is comparatively cool almost all the year round. Heavy rains fall in summer, though there is no regular rainy season. In winter, it is cold and wet on the higher parts but cool round the coast. During this period there is a general exodus to the seaside. The bathing beaches with their white coral sand and calm, safe lagoons for bathing, fishing, swimming and boating are attractive and have been favourably compared by travellers with the well-known tourist resorts of Hawaii and other Pacific Islands.

The following is a summary of the main climatological features.

Seasons

The year can be divided approximately into two seasons: summer, from November to April, and winter, from May to October, though the months April to June and September to October can be looked upon as transitional periods. The driest period, from September to November, is probably the most pleasant part of the year in all parts of the Island.

Rainfall

The average annual rainfall, at or near sea-level, is 50 inches or less, the minimum being about 30 inches in the western and north-western coastal areas. The amount increases steadily with altitude, and reaches nearly 200 inches on the highest part of the central plateau, at about 2,000 feet above sea-level.

Summer rainfall produces by far the larger proportion of the total for the year and has three main sources. The first, very common in late November and in December, comes from instability showers or "convictional" rain falling in the early afternoon in calm, or nearly calm weather. The second is associated with generally cloudy weather in troughs of low pressure. The third comes from tropical cyclones which, if at a distance from the Island, often give beneficial rain without destructive wind force but which cause much damage and very excessive rainfall if passing over or near to the island.

Winter rainfall is mostly of an orographic nature, produced by the lifting and cooling of the trade wind stream as it passes over the island. It is in the form of light rain or drizzle, most of which falls over the central high ground, particularly on the south-eastern side.

True droughts are rare, except near sea-level, but the very large deficiencies which occur from time to time, more often in early summer, are particularly important during the season of rapid growth of the sugarcane from December to April.

Temperatures

The mean temperature varies from 74°F at sea-level to 67°F. at 2,000 feet, and the mean annual range is 11°F. The highest and lowest values recorded at the Observatory, Pamplemousses, at an altitude of 180 feet, are 94.8°F and 49.9°F respectively, and the minimum at 1,850 feet is 44.9°F. The mean daily range is 13.5°F.

Humidity

The mean monthly relative humidity increases from about 70 per cent near sea-level in October and November to nearly 90 per cent at 1,850 feet in March. One hundred per cent humidity is quite frequently attained on the highest parts of the plateau and occasionally near sea-level. The lowest value recorded at the Observatory, Pamplemousses, is 33 per cent. The mean daily range varies from 19 per cent in April to 31 per cent in November at 180 feet.

Sunshine

The average number of hours per day of bright sunshine is 7.8 at 180 feet and 7.0 at 1,400 feet. October to December are the months with most sunshine.

Winds

During the winter months, with only occasional interruptions due to low pressure south of Mauritius, the Island experiences steady south-east to east-south-east trade winds of moderate strength. Occasionally they become fairly strong for a day or two but do not reach gale force.

In summer the trades are normally of light to moderate force from the east or east-north-east and interruptions are much more frequent. When these interruptions are due to low pressure to the west or south the winds become northerly or westerly and are very humid and rather warm; when due to a tropical cyclone they may come from any direction and be of any force up to hurricane strength.

Tropical Cyclones

The Island is in the region of tropical cyclones of the South Indian Ocean. These are occasionally very severe, causing widespread destruction to crops, trees and buildings, and sometimes loss of life. Fortunately, visitations of this catastrophic nature are relatively infrequent.

Cyclones occur during the summer season, usually between November and May, but they have been known to affect Mauritius slightly, on rare occasions, in September and October. The greatest

frequency of occurrence is in January and February but March is also an important month as cyclones occurring then damage the more fully grown sugarcane crop to a greater extent.

Over the period for which data are available, nearly 100 years, cyclones have caused winds with gust speeds reaching about 100 miles per hour on two or three occasions and gust speeds reaching 60 miles per hour on about thirty occasions. The highest wind speeds so far recorded were in April, 1892, when the average wind speed over a whole hour reached 76 miles per hour and gust speeds were estimated at 114 miles per hour. The winds near the centre of a tropical cyclone are extremely gusty and this, as well as the torrential rain that occurs, adds very considerably to the damage caused to the weaker buildings and to the summer vegetation which is in its most luxuriant state.

The distribution of cyclones over the years is very irregular. It is possible, as in 1945, for the Island to be struck by two destructive cyclones in a matter of weeks: on the other hand periods of 5 years and more sometimes occur with no gale winds. This year was the tenth in succession in which no damage was caused by cyclones: the length of this period of freedom from such catastrophes has never been equalled in the past 100 years.

Chapter 2: History

The Island was probably visited both by Arab sailors and by Malays during the Middle Ages, and on maps of about 1500 it is shown with an Arabic name. During the early sixteenth century Portuguese sailors visited it several times, and the first European to discover Mauritius is believed to have been Domingos Fernandez. The Island appears on many sixteenth century maps with the Portuguese name of *Cerné* or *Cirné*.

Dutch sailors first visited the Island in 1598 and renamed it Mauritius, after their ruler Prince Maurice of Nassau; later they made frequent calls on their trading expeditions to the East Indies. First-hand accounts of these visits exist, and of visits by English, French and Danish ships, which called at Mauritius for water, food and cargoes of ebony. An English trading company planned to occupy the Island but was forestalled in 1638 by a Dutch company, whose settlement lasted (with a gap from 1658 to 1664) until 1710. It was from Mauritius in 1642 that Tasman set out on his most important voyage of Australasian discovery.

The Dutch settlers never numbered much over three hundred (including children and slaves) and the most useful element was a group of twenty or thirty farmers, rearing cattle, hunting, fishing and growing food crops as well as some tobacco. But the settlement never developed enough to produce dividends and the Dutch company finally abandoned it in 1710. The most noteworthy results of this Dutch occupation were the exploitation of the Island's great ebony forests and the extinction of the Dodo, a bird peculiar to Mauritius, often mentioned by early seventeenth-century travellers. The Dutch are also to be remembered for the introduction of sugarcane, cotton, domestic animals and deer. Before the Dutch occupation the Island was uninhabited. The slaves introduced into Mauritius by the Dutch were brought from Madagascar.

The French in 1715 claimed the Island and called it *Ile de France*, but do not seem to have settled any of their surplus Bourbon colonists there until 1722. In the intervals, European pirates from Madagascar and ships of the British Navy, searching for the pirates, were almost the only visitors.

From 1722 till about 1767 Mauritius was governed by the French East India Company. From 1767 to 1810 it was in charge of officials appointed by the French Government, apart from a brief period of independence under the Colonial Assembly during the French Revolution. In 1735 the population had grown to almost

one thousand, including two hundred Europeans, and from the time of the governorship of Mahé de Labourdonnais onwards, increased rapidly, reaching nearly twenty thousand in 1767 (fifteen thousand of them slaves). Labourdonnais did more than any other Governor to change what was a petty outpost into a strong, prosperous and well populated colony. Much of the land was divided into concessions of approximately a quarter-mile by a mile, and most of these were farmed. Coffee, manioc, maize, vegetables, fruit, indigo, cloves and sugar were among the crops grown. There was some rearing of poultry, goats and cattle.

Towards the end of the Company's rule Port Louis, the capital, was a lair of speculators and adventurers, desirous of returning to Europe as soon as they had made their fortunes. During the wars of the eighteenth century (Austrian Succession War, Seven Years War, and War of American Independence), the Island became a naval depot, supplying French fleets fighting the British in the Indian Ocean, and was the pivot of French schemes to drive the British out of their Indian trading settlements. It was also a port of call for several expeditions, notably that of Bougainville, and was described by many French travellers, of whom the best known is Bernardin de Saint Pierre, author of *Paul et Virginie*.

From 1767, under royal government, the population continued to increase, reaching thirty thousand in 1777, forty thousand in 1787, and nearly sixty thousand in 1797, including fifty thousand slaves from Madagascar and Africa. During the French Revolution the inhabitants of Mauritius set up a government virtually independent of France, because the property owners were resolved to defend their interests, against the *jacobins* and *sans culottes* and to resist the attempt made by the French revolutionary government to release the slaves. The Colonial Assembly organised successful and damaging raids on English commerce whenever England and France were at war. The raids continued while Decaen, one of Napoleon's generals, was Governor until in 1810 a strong British expedition, long planned and more than once postponed, was sent to capture the Island. A preliminary attack was foiled at Grand Port in August, 1810, but the main attack, launched in December of the same year with larger forces, was successful. Bourbon and Rodrigues were also occupied by the British in 1810, but by the Treaty of Paris in 1814 Bourbon was given back to France. Mauritius and its dependencies, including Rodrigues and the Seychelles, were then ceded definitely to Great Britain.

Many English officials were brought in, together with a large garrison of several regiments. By 1870 the garrison had been gradually reduced to half a battalion, which was still further reduced after 1914. Few English merchants and private persons have settled in Mauritius, whose European population has remained mainly French in language and sentiment although loyal to the British Crown. After 1825 the Island flourished, especially by the export of sugar to England, the crop increasing from 14,000 tons to 34,000 tons in the decade 1823-33. During these early years the English Government's policy of suppression of the slave trade and the consequent plans to free the slaves were opposed until a sum of two million pounds sterling had been paid to the slave owners as compensation for the loss of their slaves. To replace the freed slaves labourers were brought from India to work in the fields. The population, which in 1833 had reached a hundred thousand (three-quarters of them slaves), had by 1861 risen to three hundred thousand, nearly two hundred thousand of them being immigrants from India, most of whom remained to settle in Mauritius.

With the aid of immigrant labour, imported fertilizers, improved methods of agriculture and richer cane varieties, the sugar crop rose to 70,000 tons in 1853, 150,000 tons by 1900, and in 1956 reached the record figure of 571,848 tons. In the interest of the sugar industry, forests were cut down, labourers brought in, reservoir and irrigation schemes carried out, new government departments set up and technicians trained. As Joseph Conrad wrote: "First rate sugarcane is grown there. All the population lives for it and by it. Sugar is their daily bread."

Other industries were sporadically encouraged and usually neglected. After the slaves had been freed, much less food was grown locally and more was imported, especially rice from India. This became the staple food of the population and remained so, except in the 1939-45 war when rice supplies from Burma and India were cut off and imported flour and local crops had to be used as substitutes. When boom prices were being paid for sugar, after the 1914-18 war, various minor industries including tea, brick and tile manufacture, tobacco, aloe fibre bags and a government dairy were developed.

One side of Mauritian history is concerned with cyclones, epidemics and crop pests, which from time to time have upset the economy of the island. In the eighteen-fifties there were epidemics of cholera and in the eighteen-sixties five years of epidemic malaria which in 1867 caused the death of 20,000 people in Port Louis alone

and the mass migration of thousands of persons, including almost all the well-to-do, from Port Louis and the coastal districts to the higher, healthier parts of Plaines Wilhems. Curepipe, a scattered village in 1865, was by 1895 large enough to have a town board, nominated annually by the Governor, and by 1952 was a town of over 23,000 people. The district of Plaines Wilhems, which in 1851 had 14,000 inhabitants, grew to 75,000 in 1921 and 150,000 in 1952. The cyclone of 1892, in which 1,200 persons were killed; the epidemic of sura in 1902, which killed off all the draught oxen and caused sugar estates hurriedly to import light railways; bubonic plague in 1899; the *Phytalus Smithi* beetle, which, in 1911, was found to be attacking the sugarcane; the 1919 epidemic of influenza; the spread of malaria during the nineteen-thirties into the hills and higher districts; and, finally, three cyclones and a serious outbreak of poliomyelitis in 1945, are some of the greater misfortunes woven into the pattern of the Island's history.

When sugar prices were high and the Island was prosperous, living conditions were improved in various ways. The sanitation of Port Louis was improved in the eighteen-nineties after long discussion. Sir Ronald Ross's visit in 1908 led to useful anti-malarial work during the next twenty years. Reservoirs at Mare-aux-Vacoas (1893-95), La Ferme (1918), and La Nicolière (1924) brought irrigation and domestic water to private houses and to sugar estates, in several districts. Child welfare and similar activities developed in the war years. After expert inquiries in 1921 the water supply of Port Louis was greatly improved and the port itself was modernised. Under the stimulus of the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts more money was spent on education in the nineteen-forties. Before 1937 government revenue had come mainly from taxes on goods entering or leaving the island as well as on various local products. A graduated poll tax on incomes was introduced and within ten years had almost doubled government revenue. The poll tax was replaced by an income tax as from the 1st July, 1951. The revenue from this source rose from Rs 17,322,000 in the financial year 1950-51 to Rs 38,207,856 in the financial year 1955-56.

When sugar prices were low or climatic difficulties discouraging, the Island had, at intervals, to raise loans or obtain grants from London. This happened in 1892, in 1908 when a Royal Commission of Inquiry under Sir Frank Swettenham was sent out from England, in 1930 when government expenditure on public works and on salaries was cut, and in 1945 as the consequence of the disastrous cyclones of that year.

The main political events of the period 1850–1900 were the establishment of the Municipality of Port Louis in 1850, the Royal Commission of Enquiry on Indian Immigration in 1872, and the creation of a Council of Government including elected members in 1886.

The early years of the present century were a period of slow recovery after the epidemics, cyclones and other calamities. The years that immediately followed the 1914–18 war were years of unprecedented prosperity, owing to a boom in sugar prices, but this prosperity did not last long. During the second World War, Mauritius assumed considerable strategic importance through the closing of the Suez Canal and the threat to India by the Japanese after their conquest of most of the European settlements in the Far East. The population at large played a valuable part in the organisation of local, military and passive defence and a large number of the Colony's youth volunteered to serve overseas.

Political, social and economic problems have lately claimed the attention of both the local and the Home Government. In 1947 Letters Patent were issued granting the Colony a broader political franchise and in 1948 Mauritius took a step nearer that self-government which it temporarily enjoyed in the days of the French Revolution.

Chapter 3: Administration

The Government of Mauritius is vested in a Governor with an Executive Council and a Legislative Council.

A Council of Government was first established in 1825. It consisted of the Governor and four officials. In the following year the Constitution was amended and a Council which included unofficial members was introduced. This Constitution provided for a Council of Government composed of certain officers of the Crown and an equal number of other persons, to be taken from the chief land-owners and principal merchants of the Colony; seven officials and seven non-officials were accordingly appointed.

The Constitution was again amended in October, 1885. The Council of Government under the revised Constitution was composed of the Governor, eight *ex officio* members, nine members nominated by the Governor, and ten elected members; of the latter, two represented the town of Port Louis, the capital of the Island, and the remaining eight represented the rural districts. At least one-third of the nominated members were to be persons not holding any public office.

The Constitution was further amended in July, 1933, by fixing at two-thirds the proportion of the nominated members of the Council, who were to be non-officials and, although no provision to that effect was made in the Letters Patent, the nominated non-official members were allowed a free vote on all occasions. The constitution of the Executive Council, which had hitherto been composed of the Governor and four *ex officio* members, was amended at the same time, and the practice of appointing non-official members to the Council which prevailed prior to the report of the Royal Commission of 1909 was revived.

The normal life of a Council is five years, but the last one to sit under the 1933 Constitution lasted from 1936 to June, 1948. This long extension was due first of all to the war and subsequently to the delay in arriving at a final decision on the new and more liberal Constitution. The protracted labours of the Consultative Committee on the revision of the constitution had ended in a virtual stalemate. In 1947 the then Governor, Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy, broke this stalemate by submitting to the Secretary of State revised proposals based on his belief that the bulk of the population was not ready for fully democratic institutions. To guard against possible abuse certain safeguards were suggested, but within these limitations the widest possible measure of enfranchisement, on the basis of a "simple literacy" requirement, was recommended by the

Governor, whose recommendations were accepted and embodied in the Letters Patent, Royal Instructions and Order in Council dated the 9th December, 1947. General elections were held on the 9th and 10th August, 1948, and the new Council met on the first day of September.

Under the new constitution British subjects, male or female, of 21 years of age or upwards, who have been ordinarily and *bona fide* residents in the Colony for a period of two years preceding an election and who,

- (a) being originally resident in some electoral district, are able to read and write simple sentences and sign their names in one of certain specified languages, to the satisfaction of the Registering Officer, *or*
- (b) being ordinarily resident in some electoral district, are qualified as serving in the Forces or as ex-servicemen discharged with certificate of satisfactory service, *or*
- (c) have been for six months previous to the date of registration owners or occupiers of business premises in an electoral district

are entitled to vote. An elector may have a vote under (c), in addition to a vote under (a) or (b), provided that he qualifies in respect of separate districts. Aliens, those under 21 years of age, those not possessing the residence qualification, criminals serving an unexpired sentence of over 12 months, the insane and, finally, those " disqualified for registration by any law for the time being in force in the Colony relating to offences connected with elections " are debarred from voting.

Electoral districts were regrouped under the Order in Council of December, 1947. Plaines Wilhems and Black River were joined together to form one electoral district returning six members. The electoral districts of Pamplemousses—Rivière du Rempart, Moka—Flacq and Grand Port—Savanne each return three members, and the constituency of Port Louis, the capital, has four members by virtue of its dense population and commercial importance.

Under the 1933 Constitution the number of registered electors was never greater than 12,000 (the figure for December, 1947, was 11,799). The number of registered electors under the new Constitution in 1948 was six times greater—71,723 having qualified to vote in the 1948 elections. The number of registered electors at the end of 1956 had risen to 91,243.

The Legislative Council is now composed of 3 *ex officio*, 19 elected and 12 nominated non-official members under the presidency of the Governor with a Vice-President elected by the Council from amongst its members (at present an elected Member). The Executive Council consists of three officials (the Colonial Secretary, the Financial Secretary and the Procureur General), four members selected for appointment by the Legislative Council from amongst the non-official members, and such other members as the Governor may appoint (recent practice has been for the Governor to appoint two members of the Legislative Council).

The names of members of the Executive Council and the Legislative Council and the changes in composition during the year are given in Appendices II and III to this Report.

In debates in the Legislative Council Members may speak either in English or in French.

In April, 1951, the then Governor announced to the Legislative Council a scheme to bring Unofficial Members in closer touch with certain government departments and thus give them the opportunity to gain fuller knowledge of departmental policy and take their share with the Governor in framing it. The duties of the "Liaison Officers" as they are called, were defined as follows:

- (a) Thoroughly to familiarize themselves with the policy set out by the Government for the working of their departments and to bring before the Governor-in-Council such proposals for modification or alteration in government policy as they may think fit.
- (b) Thoroughly to familiarize themselves with the steps taken by their departments to carry out the approved government policy; and, after consultation with the departmental head, to make such suggestions as they may think fit to the Governor-in-Council for improvement in the execution of such policy.
- (c) To discuss with the departmental head, and with any appropriate Committee, the preparation of the department's annual estimates, and any application for supplementary provision and to make any representations in connection therewith, which they may think fit, to the Governor-in-Council.

Liaison Officers, as such, are not concerned with appointments, promotions or discipline. These, under the constitution of the Colony, are matters for the Secretary of State, the Governor or the Governor-in-Council. The names of the Liaison Officers in 1956

are given in Appendix II to this Report. So far only Members of the Executive Council have been appointed.

The head of the Civil Service is the Colonial Secretary. He is the Governor's chief adviser on administrative and political matters, the Financial Secretary advising on financial and economic policy.

The Public Service Commission Ordinance (No. 53 of 1953) came into force on the 11th May, 1955. The Commission's function is to advise the Governor on appointments, promotions, disciplinary action and other matters which are referred to it in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance. During the year the Commission considered 1,854 applications in connexion with first appointments to 297 posts as well as the claims of 517 candidates for promotion: this involved a total of 1,151 interviews. The Commission also advised on 37 disciplinary cases and considered 42 matters concerning the grant of study leave or scholarships.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Urban

The Municipality of Port Louis was first established in 1850. The membership of the Municipal Council was increased by the Municipality (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950 (No. 35 of that year) from 12 to 16. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected by the Council for appointment by the Governor.

The qualifications required for registration as an elector are similar to those required of electors to the Legislative Council. There were 3,485 registered electors in 1948 and 24,068 in 1956. At the general elections held on the 2nd September 22,539 electors or 93.6 per cent of those registered went to the polls.

By virtue of the Local Government Elections Ordinance (No. 1 of 1956) responsibility for the registration of electors and for the conduct of elections in the electoral areas of the Municipality and the three Town Councils is placed on an Electoral Commissioner appointed by the Governor. The registration of electors was carried out and the general elections for the Municipal and Town Councils in 1956 were conducted in accordance with the provisions of that Ordinance for the first time.

In Plaines Wilhems the Town Councils (Constitution) Ordinance (No. 38 of 1950) provided for Town Councils to replace the former Boards of Commissioners for Curepipe, Beau Bassin/Rose Hill and Quatre Bornes. Part of the members are elected and the others nominated by the Governor: Curepipe and Beau Bassin/Rose Hill each have nine elected and four nominated members, while Quatre Bornes has seven elected and three nominated members.

The number of registered electors for each of the Town Councils and the number who voted in the general elections in December, 1956, was as follows:

<i>Township</i>	<i>Registered electors</i>	<i>No. voting</i>	<i>Per cent of Register</i>
Curepipe	6,366	4,060	63·77
Beau Bassin/Rose Hill ...	6,273	4,839	77·14
Quatre Bornes	4,938	4,052	82·05

Rural

A fresh start in rural local government was made in October, 1946, when a Civil Commissioner was appointed to take charge of the southern districts of Grand Port and Savanne. In May, 1947, a second Civil Commissioner was appointed for the northern districts of Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart, and a third Civil Commissioner, for the districts of Moka and Flacq, assumed duty towards the end of 1948. In October, 1952, Black River was added to the districts under the jurisdiction of the Civil Commissioner for the South. In September, 1955, a fourth Civil Commissioner was appointed to take charge of Black River District, the extra-urban areas of Plaines Wilhems and the southern extra-urban areas of Port Louis. The northern extra-urban areas of Port Louis come under the jurisdiction of the Civil Commissioner (North). The Civil Commissioner is the principal administrative and executive officer of Government in his district and he is responsible for coordinating the whole machinery of Government: the relationship between the Civil Commissioner and his technical colleagues in the district is similar in kind to that between the Governor and heads of department. The Civil Commissioner is also responsible for the development of local government in his district and for ensuring the welfare of its inhabitants by all means at his disposal.

Village councils were first constituted in 1947. A few councils developed very rapidly indeed and were given government contracts for such services as scavenging and the upkeep of cemeteries. With funds provided by the Central Government, councils undertook road repairs, the construction of bridges, markets, public latrines and primary school buildings, improvements to water supplies, the creation of a day nursery and even a housing experiment. Not all village councils have reached the same standard.

New impetus has been given to rural local government by the village Councils and District Councils Ordinances which came into force on the 9th February and 15th October, 1952, respectively. Regular elections, powers to raise taxes, own property and make bye-laws greatly enhanced the status of the village councils. The district council, which advises the Civil Commissioner on matters of policy, allocates funds to village councils and generally correlates their work, is able to raise certain taxes not applicable to any one village. At the end of 1952 district councils were set up in each of the three Civil Commissioners' districts following elections held under the Ordinance. Owing to the provisional character of the village councils in the Plaines Wilhems—Black River district no district council has yet been set up.

At the end of 1956 there were 27 village councils in the South, 28 in Moka—Flacq, 30 in the North and 14 in Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

Village councils consist of eight members elected on a liberal franchise and four members nominated by the Governor. District councils consist of the Civil Commissioner and thirteen other members. These members are: an elected member of the Legislative Council appointed by the Governor (usually the first member for the District); a sugar estate manager appointed by the Governor from among those in the district; a president of a co-operative society elected by the presidents of co-operative societies in the District; representatives of the Medical, Education, and Public Works and Surveys Departments appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the head of department; and seven chairmen of village councils elected by the chairmen of village councils in the district. The Chairman of the District Council is elected by the members from amongst their number and has so far been the Civil Commissioner. The Local Government Officer is the Secretary and Treasurer of the District Council.

Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1956 on the development of rural local government in Mauritius was debated by the Legislative Council on the 30th October and 6th November and was accepted as providing a sound basis for such development. The Paper reviewed the present position in regard to rural local government by village and district councils and suggested the general lines on which the responsibilities and exercise of active citizenship in the rural areas could best be developed. The proposals made in this Paper

were that (a) district and village councils should cease to be primarily agencies for the distribution of funds derived from the Central Government and should raise their own funds by means, for example, of a land rate on all occupied land within the district council area and a simple house rate payable by persons living within a village council's boundaries, (b) district and village councils should have appropriate trained staff, (c) by 1960 the direct participation of Civil Commissioners in the work of district councils, as members of those councils, should cease, and (d) representatives of Government departments should similarly cease to be members of district councils by nomination. Steps are now being taken to work out the detailed implementation of these proposals.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

The metric system is in general use in the Colony. Certain French measures are still used in connection with measurements of land, the more common being :

1 French foot = 1.06 English feet

1 Arpent = 40,000 square French feet or 1.04 acres

1 Toise = 6 French feet or 2 yards 4 inches

The following measures of capacity are also in use :

1 Bouteille = 800 c.c. (liquid)

1 Chopine = half-bouteille

1 Corde = 80 French cubic feet or 96.82 English cubic feet (used only to measure firewood).

A measure of length commonly used in the field is the *Gaulette* which is equivalent to 10 French feet. The term *livre* is used currently to mean half a kilogram.

The Weights and Measures Control Section of the Police Force is responsible for examining and stamping weights, scales, weighing machines, measures of length and measures of capacity. This section also deals with all inaccurate weights and measures seized by the uniformed Police and issues the necessary certificates for production in Court. The control of weighbridges on sugar estates is the responsibility of the Central Board constituted under the Sale of Canes (Control) Ordinance.

The amount of duty collected on weights and measures in 1956 was Rs 9,963 as compared with Rs 10,450 in 1955.

Chapter 5: Reading List

A list of publications of general interest relating to Mauritius, is given in Appendix IV.

The Bibliographical Survey of Mauritiana, begun in 1951, was completed in 1955. The survey was published under the title of *Bibliography of Mauritius, 1502-1954* and is now available. To keep it up to date a bibliographical supplement will be issued every year as an appendix to the annual report of the Archives Department.

APPENDIX I

Capital Expenditure Programme 1955—1960
Allocations made in Sessional Paper No. 6 of 1956 and
Actual Expenditure in 1955-56

<i>Allocation</i>	<i>Total 1955-1960</i>	<i>Actual Expenditure 1955-56</i>
	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
II		
District Administration...	216,300	30,146
Police	5,261,500	769,062
Printing	120,000	—
Prisons	356,030	43,925
Registrar General ...	240,000	—
Local Government ...	2,000,000	300,000
Customs and Excise ...	131,300	52,556
Treasury	90,000	—
TOTAL—GOVERNANCE ...	8,415,100	1,195,689
III		
Co-operation	550,000	63,620
Education	14,597,000	2,446,251
Housing Loans, Funds...	5,616,000	1,416,000
Medical and Health ...	13,580,000	1,497,716
Public Assistance ...	250,000	23,295
Subventions to Charita- ble Institutions ...	—	—
Social Welfare	—	—
TOTAL—SOCIAL SERVICES ...	34,593,000	5,446,882
IV		
Agriculture	15,977,600	1,702,876
Fisheries	250,000	—
Civil Aviation	200,000	182,539
Telecommunications ...	5,859,800	268,839
Fire Services	958,000	135,090
Forests	783,000	254,950
Harbour and Quays ...	10,417,800	88,224
Broadcasting	750,000	41,021
Observatory	589,400	92,359
Posts and Telegraphs ...	350,000	—
Water Supplies and Irrigation	12,650,000	6,024,462
Sewerage	5,270,000	118,992
TOTAL—PUBLIC UTILI- TIES AND SERVICES ...	54,055,600	8,909,352
V		
Public Works Miscella- neous	4,500,000	533,190
Roads	9,600,000	2,195,512
Electricity	7,680,000	11,041,429
Secondary Industries ...	1,400,000	—
TOTAL—INVESTMENT ...	23,180,000	13,770,131
TOTAL ...	120,243,700	29,322,054

APPENDIX II

(Part III—Chapter 3: Administration)

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1956*President*

His Excellency SIR ROBERT SCOTT, K.C.M.G., until 6th November.
ROBERT NEWTON, Esq., C.M.G., from 7th November.

*Ex-Officio Members**The Colonial Secretary*

ROBERT NEWTON, Esq., C.M.G., from 1st January to 31st March
and from 6th September to 6th November.

F. L. SIMPSON, Esq., (Acting), from 1st April to 5th September.

H. J. HINCHEY, Esq., C.B.E., (Acting), from 8th November.

The Procureur and Advocate General

R. ESPITALIER-NOËL, Esq., Q.C., from 1st January to 6th March.

R. NEERUNJUN, Esq., O.B.E., from 6th March (Acting until
30th November).

The Financial Secretary

H. J. HINCHEY, Esq. C.B.E., from 27th February to 7th November.

D. A. KAIN, Esq., (Acting), from 1st January to 26th February and
from 8th November.

*Selected for appointment by the Governor
(in office until September)*

Dr. the Honourable S. RAMGOOLAM, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.
(England).

Dr. the Honourable C. E. MILLIEN, M.D. (*Lyons*).

The Honourable A. GUJADHUR (deceased 28th August).

The Honourable A. L. NAIRAC, C.B.E., Q.C.

(in office from October)

The Honourable A. M. OSMAN, O.B.E.

The Honourable A. G. SAUZIER.

Dr. the Honourable L. A. CÉLESTIN, M.D. London, M.C.

The Honourable A. R. MOHAMED

Appointed by the Governor

The Honourable R. SEENEVASSAN (*in office until September*).

The Honourable F. G. MARTIAL (deceased 7th March).

(in office from 30th November)

The Honourable M. A. D. R. MAIGROT, O.B.E.

The Honourable F. LAVENTURE.

APPENDIX II—*continued*

LIAISON OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR

(until September)

Dr. the Honourable S. RAMGOOLAM	...	Education
Dr. the Honourable C. E. MILLIEN	...	Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests
The Honourable R. SEENEEVASSEN	...	Health, Welfare Services and Prisons
The Honourable A. L. NAIRAC	...	Labour.

APPENDIX III

(Part III—Chapter 3: Administration)
MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE
FOR THE YEAR 1955

President

His Excellency SIR ROBERT SCOTT, K.C.M.G., until 6th November.
ROBERT NEWTON, Esq., C.M.G., from 13th November.

Vice-President

The Honourable H. R. VAGHJEE. Elected Member for Pamplemousses—Rivière du Rempart.

*Ex-Officio Members**The Colonial Secretary*

ROBERT NEWTON, Esq., C.M.G., from 1st January to 31st March
and from 6th September to 6th November.

F. L. SIMPSON, Esq., (Acting), from 3rd April to 5th September.

H. J. HINCHEY, Esq. (Acting), from 13th November.

The Procureur and Advocate General

R. ESPITALIER-NOËL, Esq., Q.C., from 1st January to 6th March.

R. NEERUNJUN, Esq., O.B.E., from 6th March (Acting until
30th November).

The Financial Secretary

H. J. HINCHEY, Esq., from 27th February to 6th November.

D. A. KAIN, Esq., (Acting), from 1st January to 26th February and
from 13th November.

Elected Members

Dr. the Honourable S. RAMGOOLAM, for Pamplemousses—Rivière
du Rempart.

Dr. the Honourable C. E. MILLIEN, for Port Louis.

The Honourable R. SEENEEVASSEN, for Port Louis.

The Honourable A. GUJADHUR, for Moka—Flacq (deceased
28th August).

The Honourable J. M. J. L. M. J. KÆNIG, for Plaines Wilhems—
Black River.

The Honourable A. BEEJADHUR, for Pamplemousses—Rivière du
Rempart.

The Honourable S. BISSOONDOYAL, for Grand Port—Savanne.

The Honourable J. G. FORGET, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable P. G. R. RAULT, for Plaines Wilhems—Black
River.

The Honourable J. G. ROZEMONT, for Port Louis (deceased
22nd March).

APPENDIX III—*continued*

The Honourable V. RINGADOO, for Moka—Flacq.

Dr. the Honourable R. BHAGEERUTTY, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable S. BOOLELL, for Moka—Flacq.

The Honourable F. S. CHADIEN, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

Dr. the Honourable L. R. CHAPERON, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable A. R. MOHAMED, for Port Louis.

The Honourable L. P. ROZEMONT, for Grand Port—Savanne.

The Honourable G. VENKATASAMY, for Grand Port—Savanne.

Dr. the Honourable W. R. DUPRÉ, for Port Louis (from 25th May).

The Honourable R. BALGOBIN, for Moka—Flacq (from 27th November).

Nominated Members

The Honourable A. L. NAIRAC, C.B.E., Q.C.

The Honourable F. G. MARTIAL, O.B.E. (deceased 7th March).

The Honourable A. M. OSMAN, O.B.E.

Dr. the Honourable A. E. DE CHAZAL, O.B.E.

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The Honourable M. A. D. R. MAIGROT, O.B.E.

The Honourable A. G. SAUZIER.

The Honourable H. A. BAHEMIA.

Dr. the Honourable L. A. CELESTIN, M.C.

The Honourable G. J. M. SCHILLING.

The Honourable D. TAYLOR (deceased 18th March).

The Honourable M. J. E. PIAT.

The Honourable F. LAVENTURE (from 18th September).

The Honourable I. G. G. SMITH (from 18th September).

APPENDIX IV

(Part III—Chapter 5: Reading list)

Leading Books on Mauritius

GENERAL

GENERALIA

UNIENVILLE, Marie Claude Antoine Marrier, baron d': Statistique de l'île Maurice et ses dépendances suivi d'une notice historique sur cette colonie et d'un Essai sur l'île de Madagascar. Paris, G. Barba, 1838. 3 vols.

A second edition was published in Port Louis, Typ. The Merchants and Planters Gazette, 1885-86, 3 vols, with phot. portr.

MACMILLAN, Allister, *ed*: Mauritius Illustrated Historical and descriptive, commercial and industrial facts, figures, and resources. London, W. H. and L. Collingridge, 1914. 456, with numerous illus. and maps.

WALTER, A.: Chronological table of events in Mauritius, 1507-1916. Appendix to the Mauritius Almanac, (1917). Mauritius, The Mauritius Stationery and Printing Cy. Ltd., 1917. 57p.

Fairly complete for the period of British occupation.

CHAROUX, Clément: Guide illustré de l'île Maurice. Port Louis. General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1936. 64, (32), 11p., illus.

The only tourist hand-book on Mauritius.

TOUSSAINT, Auguste: Port Louis, deux siècles d'histoire, (1735-1935). Avec une Préface de Pierre Crépin, Docteur-ès-Lettres, Lauréat de l'Académie Française. Port Louis, La Typographie Moderne, 1936. (IX), 516p., with 50 plates and 9 maps.

Published on the occasion of the celebration of the bi-centenary of the foundation of Port Louis under the patronage of the Bi-centenary Committee, the Historical Records Committee and the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius. A very full account of the development of Port Louis.

BARNWELL, P. J. *and* TOUSSAINT, A.: A short history of Mauritius. London, Longmans, Green & Co., 1949. 268p., illus.

SORNAY, Pierre de: Isle de France—Ile Maurice. Port Louis. The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1950. XIV, 550, XXVIIp., illus., 28cm.

TOUSSAINT, Auguste: Select bibliography of Mauritius. Port Louis. The Standard Printing Establishment, 1951. 56p. 22cm.

TOUSSAINT, A., *and* ADOLPHE, H.: Bibliography of Mauritius (1502-1954), covering the printed record, manuscripts, archivalia and cartographic material. Port Louis, Esclapon Ltd. 1956. xvii, 884p.

APPENDIX IV—*continued*

ADMINISTRATIVE

ADMINISTRATION AND POLITICS

SWETTENHAM, Sir Frank Athestane, and others: Report of the Mauritius Royal Commission, 1909, presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty, June 1910 (Cd.5185). London, Eyre and Spottiswoode Ltd., 1910.60, XIIIp.

Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence printed separately (Cd. 5186), 581p. Documents received by the Commission also printed separately (Cd. 5187), 135p.

SWINDEN, J. B.: Local Government in Mauritius. Mauritius Government Press, 1946. 25p.

Revision of the Constitution. Correspondence with the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Mauritius, Government Press, 1947. 18p.

Problems of Parliamentary Government in Colonies—A report by the Hansard Society.

The development of rural local government in Mauritius. 12p. (Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1956).

Constitutional development in Mauritius. 56p. (Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1956).

SOCIAL

POPULATION

BEEJADHUR, Aunauth: Les Indiens à l'Ile Maurice. Port Louis, La Typographie Moderne, 1935. 126p.

THORNTON WHITE, L. W.: A master plan for Port Louis, Mauritius. South Africa, Cape Times Ltd., 1953. 89p., diag., plans.

UNIENVILLE, Noël d': L'Ile Menacée. The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 109p., map.illus.

SLAVERY

TOUSSAINT, Auguste, *ed.*: Les missions d'Adrien d'Epinay (1830–1834). Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1946. XXXII, 216p.

EDUCATION

WARD, W. E. F.: Report on Education in Mauritius. Mauritius, Government Press, 1952. 58p.

Report of the Select Committee on the Ward Report on Education. Mauritius Government Press, 1953. 41p.

NICHOLS, A. E.: A report on secondary education in Mauritius. Mauritius, The Government Printer, 1949, 31, (2)p.

APPENDIX IV—*continued*

ECONOMICS

ECONOMICS

ELLIOT, IVO D. and LOUGHNANE, N. G.: Financial situation of Mauritius. Report of a Commission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, December, 1931. Presented by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to Parliament by Command of His Majesty, March, 1932. (Cmd. 4034). London H.M. Stationery Office, 1932. 285p., map.

HOOPER, Charles Arthur, and others: Report of the Commission of enquiry into unrest on sugar estates in Mauritius, 1937. Mauritius, Government Press, 1938. XXIII, 253p.

MOODY, S., and others: Report of the Commission of Enquiry into the disturbances which occurred in the North of Mauritius in 1943. London, n.d. 81p., 1 map.

COODE and PARTNERS: Report on harbour facilities and suggested improvements at Port Louis, Mauritius. The Government Printer. 12p., 3 diags.

AGRICULTURE AND AGRONOMY

NORTH COOMBES, A.: Tea in Mauritius, 1817-1944. *Revue Agricole de l'île Maurice*, vol. XXIII, No. 6, Nov.-Dec. 1944. p. 238-241.

An historical survey of the tea industry.

NORTH COOMBES, G. A.: The fibre industry of Mauritius. Port Louis. The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1951. 85p. 20.7cm.

MAURITIUS CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE

The President's report for the year 1953-54. Centenary Number. The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1954. (117)p., illus., tabs.

DUPAVILLON, F.: Le manguier à l'île Maurice. Esclapon Ltd., ii, 130p.

SUGARCANE

NORTH COOMBES, A.: The Evolution of Sugarcane Culture in Mauritius, with a chapter on the Evolution of the Mauritian Sugar Factory. Mauritius, General Printing, 1937, xv 197, illus., map.

SORNAY, Pierre de: La canne à sucre à l'île Maurice. Paris Challamel, 1920. VIII, 677p., illus., maps.

SORNAY, P. DE and SORNAY, A. DE: Manuel de la canne à sucre à l'usage des chargés de cours et des élèves des grandes écoles coloniales. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1952. 279p. 22.5cm.

A revised 2nd edition.

APPENDIX IV—*continued*

S C I E N T I F I C

M E T E O R O L O G Y

- HERCHENRODER, Marc: *La pluie à l'Île Maurice Etude de soixante années d'observations*. Préface de Maxime Kœnig. Maurice, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1935. 61p.

B O T A N Y

- VAUGHAN, R. E. and WIEHE, P. O.: *Studies on the vegetation of Mauritius*.
- HUBBARD, C. E. and VAUGHAN, R. E.: *The grasses of Mauritius and Rodriguez*. With a foreword by Sir Arthur W. Hill, Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. London, Waterlow & Sons, 1940. 128p., illus.

Z O O L O G Y

- STRICKLAND, H. E. and MELVILLE, H. E.: *The Dodo and its kindred; or the history, affinities and osteology of the Dodo, Solitaire and other extinct birds of the islands Mauritius, Rodriguez and Bourbon*. London, Reeve, Benham and Reeve, 1848. 142p., 9 woodcuts, 16 plates.
- WHEELER, DR. J. F. G. and OMMANNEY, DR. F. D.: *Report on the Mauritius—Seychelles fisheries survey, 1948-49*. London, H.M.S.O. 1953. 145p.

G E O L O G Y

- SIMPSON, E. S. W.: *The geology and mineral resources of Mauritius*. London, A. Brown & Sons Ltd., 1951. 21p., plan, plates.
- WALKER, F. and NICOLAYSEN, L. O.: *The petrology of Mauritius*. London, A. Brown & Sons Ltd., 43p., map, plates.

L I T E R A R Y

F O L K - L O R E

- BAISSAC, Charles: *Etude sur le patois créole mauricien*. Nancy, Berger-Levrault & Cie., 1880. (VI), LVII, 234p.
- BAISSAC, Charles: *Le Folk-Lore de l'Île Maurice (Texte créole et traduction française) (t. XXVII de la collection. Les littératures populaires de toutes les nations)*. Paris, Maisonneuve & Ch. Leclerc, 1888. (VIII), XIX, 468p.
- JOUVANCOURT, Hugues de, *ed*: *Poètes et prosateurs de l'Île Maurice: Anthologie 1850-1951*. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1952, 260p., illus., 27cm.

L I T E R A T U R E

L I T E R A R Y P R O D U C T I O N S : F r e n c h

- BERNARDIN DE SAINT PIERRE, Jacques Henri: *Paul et Virginie*.

First published in 1788 and since then often reprinted. The finest French edition is that of Curmer, Paris, 1838. A number of English and American translations are available.

APPENDIX IV—*continued*

LITERARY PRODUCTIONS: English

MALIM, Michael: *Island of the Swan*. London, Longmans, Green & Co. 1952. 232p.

Imprint of Dr. F. D. OMMANNEY's: *The Shoals of Capricorn*. London, Spottiswoode, Ballantyne & Co. Ltd., 1952. 322p. illus.

HISTORICAL

EARLY HISTORY

PITOT, Albert: *T'Eylandt Mauritius. Esquisses historiques (1598-1710). Précédées d'une notice sur la découverte des Mascareignes et suivies d'une monographie du Dodo, des Solitaires de Rodrigues et de Bourbon et de l'Oiseau Bleu*. Maurice, Coignet frères & Cie., 1905. 372p.

The only complete history of Mauritius during the Dutch period.

VISDELOU-GUIMBEAU, G. de: *La découverte des îles Mascareignes*. Port Louis. The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1949. 65p., illus.

FRENCH HISTORY

PITOT, Albert: *L'Ile de France. Esquisses historiques (1715-1810)*. Port Louis, E. Pezzani, 1899. III, 447p.

MAHÉ DE LABOURDONNAIS, B. F.: *Mémoire des Îles de France et de Bourbon*. Edité par Albert Lougnon et Auguste Toussaint. Paris, E. Leroux, 1937. IX, 204p.

The first complete edition of Labourdonnais' report to the French East India Company on his administration of Mauritius from 1735 to 1740, from the manuscript preserved in the Curepipe Carnegie Library, Mauritius.

TOUSSAINT, A. *ed.*: *Early American Trade with Mauritius (Mauritius Archives Publications)*. Esclapon Ltd. 86p.

CHELIN, A.: *Le théâtre à l'Ile Maurice: son origine et son développement*. The Mauritius Printing Cy. Ltd. (*Société de l'Histoire de l'Ile Maurice*, No. 5). iii, 109p.

BRITISH HISTORY

GORDON, SIR Arthur Hamilton: *Mauritius: Records of private and public life (1871-1874)*. Edinburgh, R. Clark, 1894. 2 vols.

Contains a full account of the events that led to the appointment of the Royal Commission to enquire into the treatment of Indian immigrants in Mauritius.

PITOT, Albert: *L'Ile Maurice. Esquisses Historiques*. 1810-23, 1823-28, 1828-33. 3 vols. Printed in 1910, 1912 and 1914.

DUCCLOS, Adolphe: *L'évolution nationale mauricienne*. Paris, Jouve & Cie., 1924. 586p.

Contains a full account of the movement for the retrocession of Mauritius to France that took place in 1919-21.

APPENDIX IV—*continued*

BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIRS

MAURE, André: *Souvenirs d'un vieux colon de l'île Maurice renfermant tous les événements qui lui sont arrivés depuis 1790 jusqu'en 1837, époque du bill d'émancipation, ce qui renferme une période de 46 ans, dédiés à Sir Walter Minto Farquhar, baronet, gouverneur et capitaine-général des îles Maurice et dépendances.* La Rochelle, Typ. de Frédéric Boutet, 1840. (VI), 526p.

BIJOUX, J. O.: *Rémy Ollier, sa vie et son oeuvre. Jugement de la postérité.* Port Louis, Nouvelle Imprimerie Co-opérative, 1910. 452p., 1 plate.

Rémy Ollier was prominent among those who struggled for the abolition of the colour bar in Mauritius in the first half of the 19th century.

CRÉPIN, Pierre: *Mahé de Labourdonnais.* Paris, E. Leroux, 1922. XXXVI, 488p., illus., maps.

Thesis submitted for the degree of *Docteur-ès-Lettres* of the University of Paris. Labourdonnais was one of the most successful French governors of Mauritius.

GEOGRAPHICAL

GEOGRAPHY

ARDILL, R. H.: *A School Geography of Mauritius.* Mauritius Government Press, 1945. 55p., maps and diagrams.

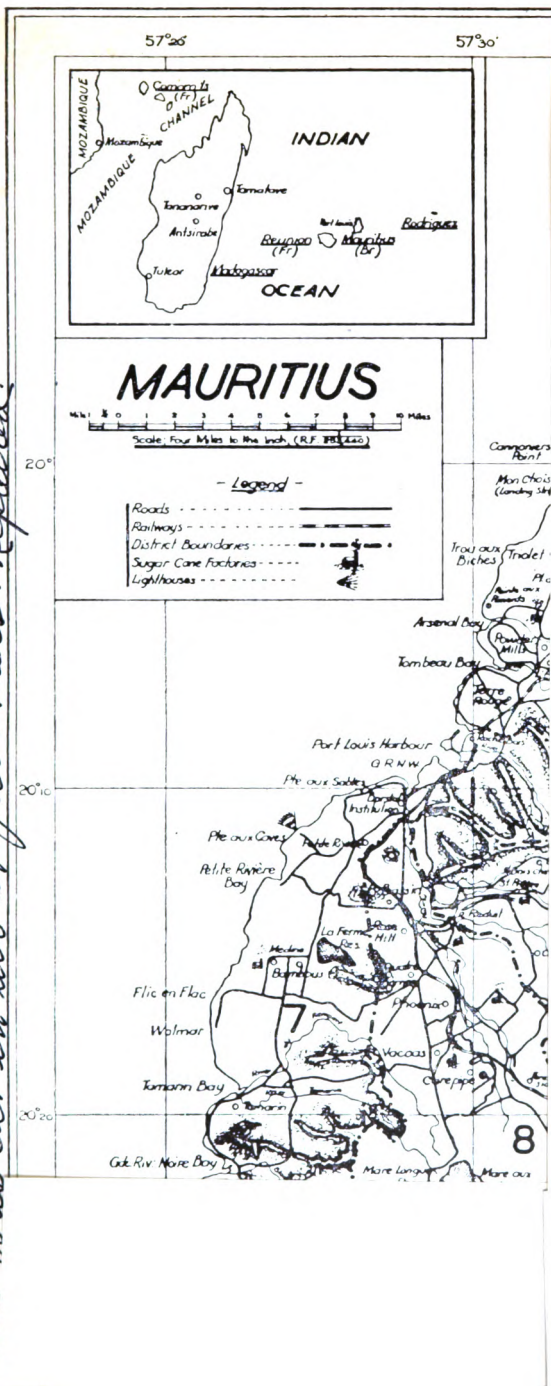
TRAVELS

LEGUAT, François: *Voyage et aventures de François Leguat et de ses compagnons en deux îles désertes des Indes Orientales, avec la relation des choses les plus remarquables qu'ils ont observées dans l'île Maurice, à Batavia, au Cap de Bonne Espérance, dans l'île de Ste. Hélène et en d'autres endroits de leur route.* Londres, David Mortier, 1708. 2 vols. with plates and maps.

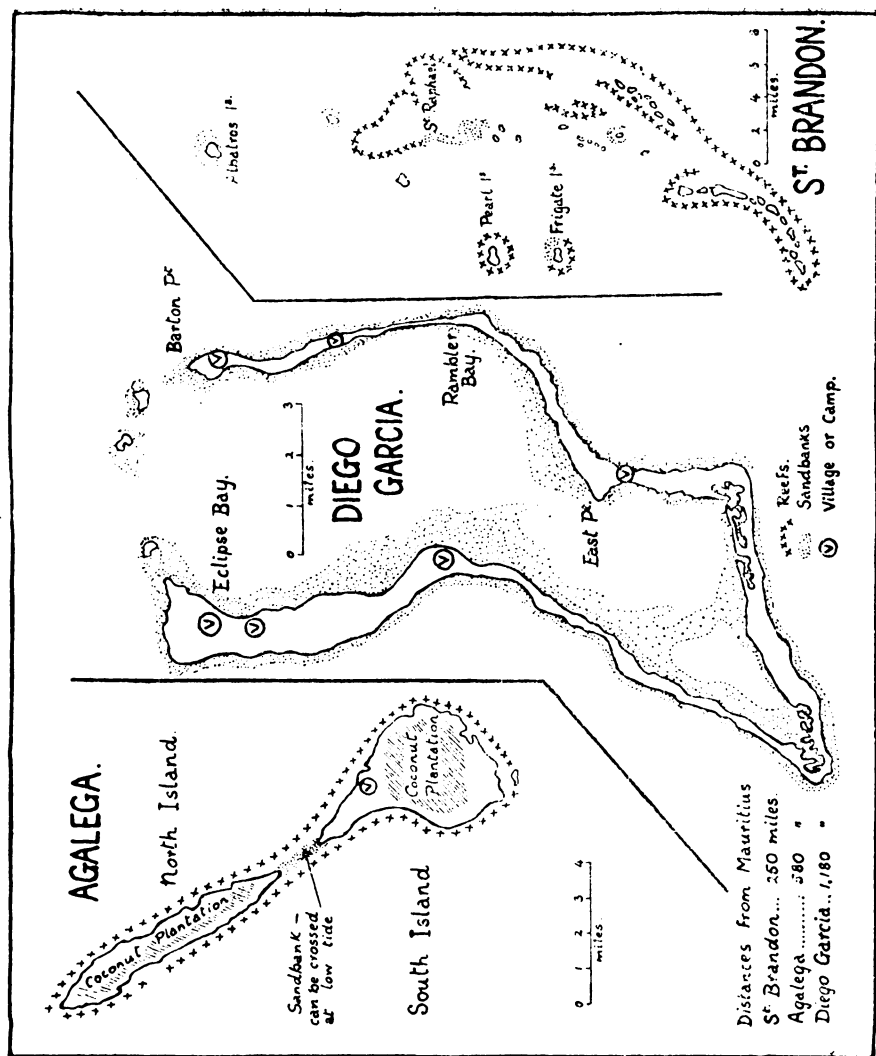
English edition with notes by Captain Pasfield Olivier for the Hakluyt Society. London, 1891, 2 vols.

PIKE, Nicholas: *Sub-tropical rambles on the land of the Aphanapteryx. Personal experiences, adventures and wanderings in and around the island of Mauritius.* London, Sampson Low, Marston and Searle, 1873. (II), XVIII, 512p., illus., 15 plates, maps.

map was cut in two at publishers. Repaired.







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THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, 26TH FEBRUARY, 1957

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PART I

Review of the Year 1957

POLITICAL

Sir Robert Stanley, K.B.E., C.M.G., took the oath as first Speaker of the Legislative Council on the 26th February.

The death of Mr. G. Venkatasamy, Second Member for Grand Port and Savanne, on the 11th August necessitated a by-election which resulted in the return of Mr. J. N. Roy, also of the Mauritius Labour Party.

Correspondence in October–December, 1956, with the Mauritius Labour Party, on the proposals for constitutional change was published on the 26th February as Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1957. With a view to securing a measure of agreement on constitutional change and thus resolving the political deadlock which had resulted from the refusal of the Mauritius Labour Party, the largest party in the Legislative Council, to participate in the election of Members of the Executive Council in September, 1956, the Secretary of State agreed to receive another delegation representative of the various shades of political opinion in Mauritius. A delegation, composed of Dr. Ramgoolam, Mr. Forget, Mr. Seeneevassen and Mr. Rault (representing the Mauritius Labour Party), Mr. Jules Koenig and Mr. Mohamed (*Parti Mauricien*), and Mr. A. L. Nairac and Dr. L. A. Célestin (Nominated Members of the Legislative Council), left for London on the 21st February. After discussions with the Secretary of State and the Governor (then in the United Kingdom) which ended on the 1st March, an agreement was reached. The main points in the London agreement were (i) a Commission of three persons from outside Mauritius should be appointed by the Secretary of State to examine whether it was possible to divide the Colony into a maximum of forty single-member constituencies of approximately equal voting strength while giving each main section of the population adequate opportunity to secure representation in the Legislative Council corresponding to its number in the community as a whole, or alternatively to demarcate eleven three-member constituencies which could serve as the basis for elections in accordance with the "Party List" system, (ii) the Governor should be empowered to nominate up to a maximum of twelve Members of the Legislative Council, (iii) the expansion of the unofficial membership of the executive Council to nine, and (iv) the introduction of the ministerial system at the earliest possible date and before the general election due to be held in August, 1958,

To facilitate the introduction of the ministerial system the six unofficial members of the Executive Council tendered their resignations to the Governor in June. The Legislative Council then elected Dr. Ramgoolam and Dr. Millien (Labour Party) and Mr. Sauzier and Mr. Osman (Nominated Members) for appointment to the Executive Council and five other Members—Mr. Forget, Mr. Rault, Mr. Seeneevassen and Mr. Vaghjee (Labour Party) and Dr. Célestin (Nominated Member)—were appointed by the Governor. Ministerial portfolios were allocated (see Appendix II) and Ministers took office on the 5th July.

The introduction of the ministerial system gave rise to staffing and accommodation problems which could not be fully resolved by the end of the year.

Following the appointment of Ministers, and the need for consequential changes in procedure, existing legislation was reviewed by a Ministerial Committee. As a result of this review power to decide certain matters which, under existing legislation, required reference to the Governor in Council was transferred by the Executive Council (Transfer of Powers and Duties) Ordinance (No. 35 of 1957), either to the Governor or to the Governor acting on the advice of the Minister or to the Minister.

The Legislative Council adopted new Standing Orders in conformity with modern procedure.

The Mauritius Electoral Boundary Commission was appointed by the Secretary of State in July with Sir Malcolm Trustram Eve, Bt., G.B.E., M.C., T.D., Q.C., as chairman, Mr. Robert Beloe and Mr. E. R. Sudbury as members, and Mr. I. S. Wheatley of the Colonial Office as secretary. The Commission's terms of reference were to examine whether it was possible to divide the Colony of Mauritius into a series of single-member constituencies up to a maximum of 40 of approximately equal voting strength but with a minimum electorate in any one constituency of 5,000, with the primary objective that each main section of the population should have adequate opportunity to secure representation in the Legislative Council corresponding to its own number in the community as a whole; but providing that each constituency should have reasonable geographical boundaries and that the boundaries could be expected to endure for a reasonable number of years. If the Commission found it was not possible to demarcate single-member constituencies in accordance with the basic principles indicated it should then demarcate boundaries for eleven three-member constituencies, roughly equal in the number of voters and based so far

as possible on present divisions used for purposes of central or local government. Mr. Beloe, Mr. Sudbury and the secretary arrived in the Colony on the 3rd August and the chairman on the 8th September. The Commission left Mauritius on the 6th October. At the end of the year the Commission's report was awaited.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL

Shortage of rain in certain areas during 1957 affected the sugar crop but the effects were in part offset by record crops in other areas, a slight increase in the acreage under cane and a high extraction rate. The 1957 crop is estimated to have produced 561,500 metric tons, a production second only to the 1956 record of 572,512 tons.

For most of the year the world price was higher than the negotiated price under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement. The agreement price was £42/3/4 against £40/15/- in 1956 and the total gross value of the 1957 crop is expected to be of the order of Rs 280,000,000. The negotiated price for the calendar year 1958 has been fixed at £43/16/8; the world market price, however, had declined by the end of 1957.

Tea production rose again by some 400,000 lbs to 1,893,752 lbs and exports at 881,104 lbs showed marked improvement as compared with the previous year.

In 1956-57 expenditure on capital works was charged to the Development Fund and excluded from the recurrent budget. Development Fund expenditure amounted to Rs 23.05 million. The closing of the Colony's accounts for 1956-57 showed a surplus of Rs 15.1 million against an estimated surplus of Rs 1.6 million, expenditure having been over-estimated by Rs 5.1 million and revenue under-estimated by Rs 8.4 million.

In the latter part of the year the Legislative Council passed a number of financial measures aimed principally at making possible the optimum mobilisation of the Colony's internal capital. The measures provided for a Consolidated Sinking Fund, the raising of local loans including "tap" loans and succession duty stock issues, the issue of tax reserve certificates, and the holding of part of the currency reserve in local stock. The Council approved a handbook on the control of public expenditure which introduced a limited power of *virement* for the first time and, by resolution, established a Civil Contingencies Fund. It also approved an interim report of the Economic Planning Committee of Executive Council which is re-examining the Colony's capital expenditure programme for the five years 1957-1962.

SOCIAL SERVICES

1957 was the final year of a special two-year programme for the expansion of primary schools. In the two years 431 classrooms were constructed. The construction of new schools continued: eleven new primary schools were opened while seven others were under construction at the end of the year. The primary school population is expected to rise from 87,872 to over 100,000 in January, 1958.

Further progress has been made with the expansion of facilities for secondary education. A new assembly hall and six extra classrooms have been constructed at the Royal College. The first stage of reconstruction of the new Royal College School on the outskirts of Port Louis was completed in December. The Principal for the proposed Government technical school was appointed and has advised on the planning of this project.

The Education Ordinance (No. 39 of 1957) was approved by the Legislative Council on the 10th December, 1957. The new Ordinance consolidates and revises the law relating to education in the Colony. The principal new provision relates to the control and inspection of private schools and it was first necessary for an Order in Council dated the 10th August, 1836, which prohibited any restrictions on the right of teaching in private schools or their control and superintendence by the Government, to be revoked. The new Ordinance came into force on the 28th December, with the exception of the provisions concerning the control and inspection of private schools, which are to come into force on the 1st July, 1958.

The health of the population continued to show a steady improvement. The rapid rate of increase in the population, partly attributable to the success of public health measures, continues to cause anxiety. During the year the Colony has received valuable assistance from the World Health Organisation which sent teams to conduct surveys in tuberculosis incidence and nutrition. An agreement has been entered into with the United Nations International Children Emergency Fund who will provide means of extending existing maternity and child welfare schemes throughout the Island. A voluntary vaccination campaign against poliomyelitis was started. More than 60,000 children of five years and under were vaccinated free of charge at hospitals and dispensaries all over the Island.

An administrative and outpatients' block at the Civil Hospital in Port Louis was nearing completion at the end of the year. The

additional 60-bed ward at the Mental Hospital and the ophthalmic unit at Victoria Hospital, as well as a new 90-bed hospital in Rodrigues, had reached an advanced stage of construction. The construction of a school for the training of nurses and a deep X-ray therapy unit at Victoria Hospital and additional quarters for medical staff were put in hand during the year. The construction of a new central laboratory for the Medical Department has begun.

The construction of a social welfare centre at Mont Roches was completed.

Further progress has been made with housing, both in the urban and rural areas. Of the Rs 10½ million provided for housing loans to the local authorities in the urban areas Rs 8,180,000 had been issued by the end of the year. The housing schemes started by two of the Town Councils had made substantial progress. In the rural areas the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee completed the construction of the housing estates at Bois Chéri, St. Pierre, Montagne Blanche, Olivia and Bel Air.

The construction of a model village by Flacq United Estates Ltd. with the assistance of a loan provided by the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund reached an advanced stage.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

The progressive extension of the Island's domestic water supplies has continued.

Production of electricity kept pace with demand which rose to 44.6 million Kwh in 1957. Electricity supplied by sugar factories from surplus power during the crop season was fed for the first time into the public network during the year and arrangements were made to tap further sources of this type of power. Work on new hydro-electric schemes continued but none were commissioned during the year; thermal generation produced an uneconomically high proportion of all electricity sold and during a long dry spell at the end of the year load-shedding was only narrowly avoided.

COMMUNICATIONS

The public railway system continued to run at a loss. The bus services functioned smoothly on the whole and new bus routes were licensed mainly for the convenience of persons living on the outskirts of towns. A revision of bus fares was authorised in December and resulted in an overall increase of 15 per cent over the tariff which had been in force since April, 1956. The increase in fares is intended to provide the travelling public with a better service and to enable fair salaries and wages to be paid.

As from the 1st August responsibility for the registration of motor vehicles was transferred from the Police to the Road Traffic Licensing Authority, which is now responsible for the registration and licensing of road motor vehicles.

Air communications have been further extended. In November South African Airways inaugurated a new fortnightly service between South Africa and Australia via Mauritius and Cocos Islands. This service alternates with the fortnightly service on the same route already operated by Qantas Empire Airways Ltd.

As from March a radio-telephone service to Réunion and Madagascar was made available to the public by Cable and Wireless Limited.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE

The need for a revision of salaries and conditions of service of administrative, professional and senior technical staff had been felt for some time and had been the subject of an exchange of correspondence between the Governor and the Secretary of State (published as Sessional Paper No. 6 of 1957). In August a Salaries Commissioner was appointed with the following terms of reference:

“ To review the salaries of Government Officers in Mauritius on a salary scale with a maximum basic salary of Rs 10,320 per annum and upwards, including fixed salaries, and to make recommendations accordingly having regard to:—

- (i) the need to attract and retain senior and professional officers of adequate experience and technical qualifications;
- (ii) the inadequacy or otherwise of salaries in Mauritius to achieve this purpose in relation to salaries in comparable territories elsewhere and to the level of professional and technical salaries in the world market and in Mauritius;
- (iii) the extent to which salaries in Mauritius give an adequate recognition to the varying degrees of responsibility and technical qualifications of Government Officers on a salary scale with a maximum basic salary of Rs 10,320 per annum or above, including fixed salaries.”

The Salaries Commissioner, Mr. R. J. C. Howes, M.B.E., arrived in the Colony on the 18th September and presented his report on the 30th November. The Commissioner recommended an increase in superscale salaries of the order of one-third of the ori-

ginal basic salaries and the introduction of a new scale combining the existing "A" scale of 22 steps and the "B" scale of 23 steps, the professional and administrative segment of the combined scale including all posts which require as an essential condition of appointment the holding of a recognised professional or scientific qualification. Other recommendations included the "broad-banding" of departments, i.e. the reduction from 8 to 4 categories of departments with corresponding importance and responsibilities.

Concurrently with this limited revision a Working Party was instituted, with the Colonial Secretary as chairman and the Financial Secretary and the Principal of the Teachers' Training College as members, to review the structure, operation and system of recruitment of the Public Service. In addition to formulating recommendations for the modernisation of the administrative structure of Government, the provision of suitably qualified personnel required by a modern administration and the provision of adequate training for Government personnel, the Working Party recommended a substantial revision of the middle and lower salary ranges, i.e. those sections of the Public Service not included in the terms of reference of the Salaries Commissioner. This revision was related to the revision recommended by Mr. Howes and in each case provision was made for the absorption of the full cost-of-living allowance then being paid into pensionable emoluments. The organisational recommendations envisaged the creation of administrative, executive and clerical classes, entry to which would be by the normal methods of open competition, limited competition and direct promotion. Recommendations also included proposals for the improvement of the status of typists and stenographers and the provision of promotion posts, provision for staff training, the rationalisation of leave conditions, the adoption of a definite policy for the payment of gratuities on discharge of temporary staff and a solution to the problem of personnel paid under 'Other Charges'.

The revised salary proposals were embodied in a Civil Establishment (Amendment) Order which was laid on the table of the Legislative Council on the 10th December and approved after debate on the 17th December. The cost of implementing payment of the revised salaries with retrospective effect as from the 1st January was estimated at Rs 5.9 million.

A Commission of Enquiry into the Mauritius Police Force was appointed by the Governor in August "to advise on the manner in which the Mauritius Police Force has adapted itself to local conditions and resources; to consider and report on any improvements

which may be required in conditions of service, systems of promotion and training of the Police to enable it more effectively to discharge its responsibilities and for these purposes to invite and examine evidence from the public". The Commission was composed of Sir John Nicoll, K.C.M.G., as chairman, and Sir William Johnson, C.M.G., C.B.E., and Mr. I. H. E. J. Stourton, C.M.G., O.B.E., as members. The Commission arrived in Mauritius on the 6th November and left Mauritius on the 8th December. Its report was awaited at the end of the year.

H O N O U R S

Her Majesty The Queen was graciously pleased to approve the following appointments and awards on the occasion of the New Year and on Her Birthday:—

N E W Y E A R

Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire
JOSEPH ANTOINE RENÉ LAVOPIERRE, Director of Medical Services.

Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire
GEORGE SIMS, Rector, Royal College.

B I R T H D A Y

Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire
DR. JOSEPH ANTOINE HERMAN ANDRÉ, M.B.E., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.,
Deputy Director of Medical Services.

Imperial Service Order

JEAN ELIEL FÉLIX, Government Printer and Linotype Operator.

Colonial Police Medal

GEORGE BERNARD McCAFFERY, Deputy Commissioner of Police.
PAUL PERRIER, Superintendent of Police.

Certificates and Badges of Honour

His Excellency the Governor approved the following awards on the occasion of the New Year and on Her Majesty's Birthday:—

N E W Y E A R

BAKAR HOSSEN ZEADALLY, for services in connection with the co-operative movement.

NOOTUN PADARUTH, for services in connection with rural local government and the co-operative movement.

RAJKARRAN NAIK, for services in connection with rural local government.

B I R T H D A Y

JAMES HOWARD NORMAN SNEEDEN, for loyal service.

MRS. JEANNE KÖENIG, for social and humanitarian work.

VISITORS

MR. J. D. PROFUMO, O.B.E., M.P., Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

VICE-ADMIRAL H. W. BIGGS, C.B., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL G. W. LATHBURY, C.B., D.S.O., M.B., former Commander-in-Chief, East Africa.

MAJOR-GENERAL N. P. H. TAPP, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief, East Africa.

VICE-ADMIRAL N. MARIANI, C.B.E., French Navy.

MR. H. P. HALL, M.B.E., Head of the Pacific Department of the Colonial Office.

MR. B. J. SURRIDGE, C.M.G., O.B.E., Adviser on Cooperation to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

MR. T. C. JERROM of the Colonial Office.

MR. S. A. AFZAL, Commissioner for Pakistan in East Africa and Aden.

MRS. de VAUD and M. M. BOULANGE, Delegates of the Labour Committee of the French Senate.

MESSRS. BOSCARY-MONSERVIN, CHARPENTIER and RINCENT, members of a French Parliamentary mission accompanied by M. PERRAUT-PRADIER, *Préfet* of Réunion.

SIR THOMAS DALLING, Member of the Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

DR. H. BLOCH, Consultant of the World Health Organisation.

MISS MARGARET PILKINGTON, Commonwealth Overseas Trainer of Girl Guides.

MR. TOM BAVIN, Delegate of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

MR. JAMES YOUNG, representative of the British Trade Union Congress.

VISITING SHIPS

In addition to the visit in July by H.M.S. *Ceylon*, flying the flag of the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies, Mauritius was visited by H.M.S. *Cornus* in April, H. M. Submarine *Andrew* in July, H.M. Submarine *Trenchant* in September and H.M.S. *Opossum* in December.

The Pakistani destroyers *Tippu Sultan* and *Tughril* called at Port Louis on their way to a search for a missing ship. The French naval surveying vessel *La Pérouse* visited the Colony in September.

PART II

Chapter I: Population

A census of the population, which was taken during the night of the 28th—29th June, 1952, gave the following results:

Males ...	...	252,032
Females ...	...	249,383
TOTAL ...	...	501,415

The population of Mauritius as at the 31st December, 1957, was estimated therefrom at 596,600.

The natural increase, that is the excess of births over deaths in 1957, was 17,670, a number which is nearly 7 times the corresponding average for the five pre-war years (1935–39).

Civilian departures from the Colony exceeded arrivals by 167.

The average density of the population for the whole Island was 815 per square mile (calculated on the mid-year population).

B I R T H S

The number of live births during the year 1957 was 25,273, an increase of 363 on the number for 1956. It represented an increase of 3,039 on the yearly average number of births for the decennial period ending with 1956.

<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male births per 1,000 female births</i>
12,911	12,362	25,273	1,044

The following are the birth rates (per 1,000 of the mid-year population) for the last five years:

1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
46·3	41·3	41·8	43·8	43·1

Still-births, which are not included as either births or deaths, numbered 1,800 (949 males and 851 females), corresponding to a rate of 7·1 per hundred live births. During the year 1957 there were 1,789 still-births, corresponding to a rate of 7·2.

D E A T H S

Deaths registered in Mauritius numbered 7,603, corresponding to a rate of 13·0 per 1,000 of the population. The month of maximum mortality was August with 920 deaths. In 1956 the highest figure recorded was 633 in September, as against 765 in January, 1955.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of deaths in 1957 ...	4,019	3,584	7,603
Rate per 1,000 of population	13·5	12·4	13·0

The average death rate for the period 1948–57 was 15·4.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age during 1957 was 1,897 as against 1,644 in 1956. This number was considerably lower than in the quinquennial period 1944-48.

The following table shows the infantile mortality rate (i.e. the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births):—

<i>Year</i>			<i>Rate</i>
1944-1948			
(average) ...	...	...	154·9
1952 ...	...	...	80·8
1953 ...	...	...	93·5
1954 ...	...	...	81·1
1955 ...	...	...	67·2
1956 ...	...	...	66·0
1957 ...	...	...	75·1

MARRIAGES

The following table gives the number of marriages for the last five years:

<i>Year</i> ...	...	...	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Number of marriages			3,473	3,092	2,797	3,080	2,903

MOVEMENT OF THE CIVIL POPULATION

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Arrivals ...	...	5,156	2,939	8,095
Departures...	...	5,309	2,958	8,267

These figures include :—

- (a) the very small figure of engaged or discharged seamen, and
- (b) emigrants and immigrants to and from the dependencies, but not movements of troops and locally enlisted servicemen.

Chapter 2 : Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

EMPLOYMENT

The distribution of workers in the various industries of the Colony in 1957 is given in the table below:

				Men	Women	Juveniles	Total
(a) <i>Sugar Industry</i>	...	...	...	40,178	13,094	2,868	56,140
(b) <i>Public Services—</i>							
Government Departments	...	...	...	9,539	552	103	10,194
Urban Councils	...	...	...	905	62	53	1,020
(c) <i>Other Industries—</i>							
Aloe Fibre...	...	...	...	455	836	141	1,432
Aerated Water Works	...	...	...	139	34	—	173
Bakeries	...	...	...	520	—	—	520
Building Contractors	...	...	...	2,084	4	125	2,213
Cigarette Manufactories	...	...	...	111	125	1	237
Compounders	...	...	...	78	—	—	78
Distilleries	...	...	...	86	1	2	89
Docks	...	...	...	1,056	11	19	1,086
Electricity	...	...	...	593	—	15	608
Jewellery	...	...	...	313	—	96	409
Lime Kilns	...	...	...	325	231	—	556
Match Manufactories	...	...	...	21	—	—	21
Oil Industry	...	...	...	61	—	—	61
Printing Establishments	...	...	...	305	—	70	375
Sack Factory	...	...	...	124	114	106	344
Salt Pans	...	...	...	61	68	—	129
Saw Mills	...	...	...	190	—	—	190
Shoe-making	...	...	...	238	189	—	427
Stevedoring Companies	...	...	...	820	—	—	820
Sugar Mechanical Pool	...	...	...	94	20	—	114
Tanneries	...	...	...	47	2	—	49
Tea Industry	...	...	...	910	734	235	1,880
Tobacco	..	...	...	926	920	178	2,024
Wine Industries	...	...	...	217	189	1	407
Workshops (Motor)	...	...	...	548	—	258	806
Workshops (Other)	...	...	...	744	3	93	840
Bus Coach Builders	...	...	...	92	—	61	153
				61,780	17,189	4,426	83,395

It is estimated, however, that the total number of gainfully occupied persons was 184,000. The difference between the estimated total number and the total shown in the above table comprises types of workers such as self-employed craftsmen, domestic servants, unskilled journeymen, etc. not included in the classification.

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Total
56,140

10,194
1,020

1,432
173
520
2,213
257
78
89

1,086
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THREE-STOREY BUILDING BELONGING TO THE MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY
LABOUR WELFARE FUND

The sugar industry, the main industry of the Island, employed on an average 56,140 workers in 1957. The seasonal fluctuation in this industry between the average inter-harvest employment and average harvest employment amounted to 19 per cent as shown by the following figures:

		<i>During inter-crop</i>	<i>During crop</i>
Artisans and drivers ...		4,276	4,232
Labourers:—			
Males	32,267		39,580
Females	11,875		14,314
Juveniles	2,800		2,936
	<hr/> 46,942		<hr/> 56,830
	<hr/> 51,218		<hr/> 61,062

The secondary industries of the Island, of which the more important are aloe fibre extraction, alcohol distilling from molasses, and the manufacture of tea and tobacco, provided employment for some 4,850 skilled workers, 6,308 unskilled males, 3,481 females and some 1,402 juveniles. The public services employed 2,629 skilled workers and 7,815 unskilled men, 614 women and 156 juveniles. The number of persons employed in industries and the public services was registered as 83,395, of whom 11,733 were skilled workers, 47,261 unskilled men, and 21,615 women and juveniles.

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

The value of the sugar annually exported from Mauritius represents more than 97 per cent of the total value of all exports from the Colony. The sugar industry therefore governs the entire economy of the Island; it embraces not only all those persons directly or indirectly interested in the planting of sugar cane and in the manufacture of sugar and its by-products and the financing of the cultivation, manufacture and marketing of the product, but also affects very largely the public revenue and those classes of people, such as merchants and bankers, whose business is mainly connected therewith.

Much of the estate work is still of a manual nature, though mechanization of field work is being pushed as rapidly as imports of bulldozers, rotary ploughs and tractors permit; the rocky nature of the soil, however, makes it extremely unlikely that the industry can ever become fully mechanized.

OTHER OCCUPATIONS

Other occupations include the aloe fibre (*Furcraea Gigantea*) industry, which produces fibre for making bags for the sugar industry; the tea industry, which is at present operating on a

comparatively small scale and producing tea mainly for local consumption; tobacco growing; food crops and the cultivation of vegetables; and the rearing of milch cows and livestock on a small scale.

Minor industries include fishing, sawmills, garages, workshops, salt pans, lime kilns, furniture manufacture, charcoal burning, match manufacture, the preparation of hides and skins, tanning and boot and shoe manufacture, clothing and shirt manufacture, and printing.

Apart from agricultural and industrial occupations, many of the population are employed as clerical workers and as domestic servants.

There is full employment among agricultural workers during the five months' crop season, but unemployment is occasionally reported amongst this category of workers, in certain areas at certain times, during the remainder of the year. Efforts are made through the machinery of the Local Employment Committees to alleviate unemployment where it exists by the issue of permits to transport labourers by lorry to localities where work is available. Government departments employing labour reserve, as far as possible, their major works for the intercrop season. Employers are requested to recruit their labour through the Employment Registration Bureau and when workers are discharged from employment they are referred to the Bureau to register for re-employment.

The number of registered unemployed persons and the number of workers placed for the year 1957 were as follows:

				<i>Unemployed persons</i>	<i>Placings</i>
January	...	...	...	2,118	98
February	...	...	...	1,973	236
March	...	...	...	1,910	256
April	...	...	...	1,758	243
May	...	...	...	1,705	158
June	...	...	...	1,588	193
July	...	...	...	2,169	362
August	...	...	...	1,554	187
September	...	...	...	1,644	165
October	...	...	...	1,415	199
November	...	...	...	1,705	280
December	...	...	...	1,425	234
Monthly average 1957	...	...	...	1,747	218
Monthly average 1956	...	...	...	2,382	298

There is no migrant labour problem in Mauritius.

During 1957, 62 workers were recruited through the Employment Registration Bureau in accordance with the Emigration Regulations (No. 156 of 1951) to take up employment in Madagascar.

The Emigration Regulations, 1951, as subsequently amended, provide that before leaving the Colony, an emigrant shall obtain an Emigration Certificate from the Regional Controller (Labour Commissioner) of the area in which the emigrant resides, and such certificate shall be granted under the following conditions:—

(1) The emigrant shall have registered at an Employment Registration Bureau as a person seeking employment.

(2) The emigrant shall have completed a questionnaire in the form set out in the Schedule to the Regulations.

(3) The Regional Controller shall have satisfied himself, within the means at his disposal, that:—

(a) the proposed contract of service of the emigrant is fair and reasonable, and that the emigrant has taken adequate steps to provide for his dependent relatives in Mauritius;

(b) the contract of service will be valid in the country of employment;

(c) the emigrant is aware—

(i) of the general conditions of living in the country of employment;

(ii) of his rights as a British subject, and

(iii) of the steps to be taken if he should at any time wish to return to Mauritius.

(4) The emigrant shall, if so required by the Regional Controller, submit himself for examination, at Government expense, by a duly qualified medical officer selected in that behalf by the Regional Controller.

(5) The emigrant shall, if so required, submit himself to a trade test under such conditions as the Regional Controller may prescribe, provided that such emigrant may be allowed all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred by him for the purpose of undergoing such test.

W A G E S

The level of wages is largely determined by the rates prevailing in the sugar industry. In this industry minimum rates of wages for workers of the artisan category (represented by the Artisans

and General Workers' Union) and for labourers (represented by the Amalgamated Labourers' Association) are negotiated by collective bargaining between the two unions and the employers' organisation, the Sugar Producers' Association. A trade agreement provides for the cost-of-living bonus paid to sugar estate workers to fluctuate with the cost-of-living index prepared by the Labour Department and for a bonus to be paid at the end of the year, based on the size of the crop. The principle of collective bargaining has also been adopted by dock workers, by workers employed by the Central Electricity Board, workers of the artisan category who are members of the Artisans and General Workers' Union, and the respective employers' organisations. The wages of workers in some other industries are thought to be sufficiently protected, in general by the agreed rates payable in the sugar industry. In certain industries, however, where the trade union organisation is weak and incapable of fully representing the interests of its members, recourse has been had to orders issued under the Minimum Wages Ordinance. Orders of this nature have been issued in respect of workers in the printing trade, messengers in private firms, female factory workers and road passenger transport workers.

Basic wage rates in the sugar and other industries are subdivided into different categories in accordance with the type of work and the different categories of workers. Typical rates are:

SUGAR INDUSTRY

MONTHLY EMPLOYEES

<i>Labourers</i>		<i>Rs. cs.</i>
Men	Class I ...	47 85 per month
Women and Young Persons	Class I ...	31 73 do.
Children (under 14 years of age)	...	22 08 do.
<i>Artisans</i> ...	...	52 50 to Rs 167 per month

Overtime, sickness allowance, house accommodation, paid holidays, annual leave and maternity allowance are also provided for.

DAILY WORKERS

<i>Labourers</i>		<i>Rs. cs.</i>
Men	Class I ...	2 72 per day
Women	Class I ...	1 36 do.
Young Persons ...	...	1 10 do.
Children (under 14 years of age)	...	0 75 do.
<i>Artisans</i> ...	...	2 75 to Rs 3.70 per day

A cost-of-living allowance at the rate of 46% of the basic wage for January and 50% from 1st February to December was paid to all employed in the sugar industry. An end-of-crop bonus, ranging from $\frac{1}{2}$ month to 3 months' wages, was also granted to all monthly-employed persons, depending upon the size of the crop and the price obtained for sugar.

OTHER INDUSTRIES

				<i>Rs. cs.</i>		<i>Rs. cs.</i>
Dock workers	...	...	...	83 35	to	250 80 per month
				3 20	to	15 24 per day
Artisans (Grade II to Grade I)	..			95 00	to	360 00 per month
				4 00	to	12 50 per day
Printing workers	...	...	...	3 75	to	7 50 per day
Salesmen	...	...	...	50 00	to	200 00 per month

The above rates are inclusive of cost-of-living allowance.

HOURS OF WORK

In all cases where workers are employed upon a time-basis, the working day is of 8 hours, but where employed upon a task or piece-work basis it may be only 5 hours. Government office hours are from 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. with a half-hour break for lunch. Business offices and many of the shops in Port Louis follow more or less the same practice.

COST-OF-LIVING FIGURES

The Labour Department's Cost-of-Living Index* figures for agricultural labourers in the year 1957 were:

January ...	... 151.3	July ...	... 145.0
February ...	... 150.5	August ...	... 145.5
March ...	... 149.2	September ...	... 146.4
April ..	... 147.9	October ...	... 146.3
May ...	... 146.6	November ...	... 146.7
June ...	... 145.3	December ...	... 147.1

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The Labour Department can trace some link in the past with the Office of the Protector of Slaves, for that office was succeeded by the Bureau of the Protector of Immigrants and, when immigration had ceased, the Poor Law Commissioner occupied the building and also administered the Immigration Law. This law was thoroughly revised in 1878, again in 1922, and again in 1938. The same year an Ordinance legalised the existence of industrial associations and the Director of Labour was given certain powers for regulating the settlement of industrial disputes. The Labour

* Base 1946 = 100

Ordinance, 1938, provided for the appointment of a Director of Labour and staff in order to "perform all duties imposed and exercise all powers conferred" on him by this Ordinance. The title of Director of Labour was later changed to that of Labour Commissioner.

The Department is administered by the Labour Commissioner, his Deputy and two Assistant Commissioners. The field staff consists of thirteen Labour Officers, including one woman officer who is particularly responsible for estate housing conditions.

The duties of the senior officers are distributed functionally, i.e. conciliation, trade union relations and enforcement of safety, health and welfare provisions. The duties of the junior officers are organised on a territorial basis. The district Labour Officers, each of whom is required to follow a Labour Officers' Training Course in the United Kingdom, perform a most important task; they are in close and continuous contact with the mass of the workers, and help the individual worker to understand and make use of the labour laws.

Inspection of camps and factories is regular and thorough. Careful reports are prepared and copies of the relevant portions are sent to the employers concerned, with a request for early action. These letters are followed up by further inspections and a warning of prosecution if no action is taken by the employer. The number of factories registered has also increased considerably.

Many sugar estates house part of their labour force on the estates and a group of such lodgings is called a camp. Under the Labour Ordinance the state of these camps must not fall below a certain standard and it is the duty of the Labour Department to inspect the camps at regular intervals.

SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE

The Safety, Health and Welfare Branch of the Labour Department is under the charge of an Assistant Labour Commissioner with a staff of two Labour Officers and one female Labour Inspector to ensure the safety, health and welfare of employees under the Factory and Labour Ordinances.

(1) The Labour Officers enforce:

- (a) the general safety provisions regarding fencing of machinery, hoists, vessels containing dangerous liquids, the maintenance of floors and stairs, dangerous fumes in confined spaces, inflammable dust, vapours and substances, fire precautions and the registration of boilers and machinery;

- (b) the general health provisions dealing with cleanliness, overcrowding, space, temperature, ventilation, lighting, drainage and sanitary conveniences;
- (c) the general welfare provisions dealing with messrooms, cloakrooms, washing facilities, wholesome drinking water, sitting facilities and first aid arrangements;
- (d) the general provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance (Cap. 220, as subsequently amended) as far as factories are concerned, and
- (e) the provisions of the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Ordinance (Cap. 211) regarding night work of women and young persons employed in industry and minimum age for admission of children to industrial employment.

(2) The female Labour Inspector is in charge of the inspection of quarters of workers housed by employers and the inspection of estate dispensaries and hospitals where these workers are given free medical attention under the provisions of the Labour Ordinance (Cap. 214).

A Safety, Health and Welfare Committee has been appointed and meets from time to time for the discussion of relevant measures.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

The Apprenticeship Ordinance, 1946, provides for the regulation of employment of apprentices and, under this Ordinance, the heavy engineering trade, the automobile repairs and the printing industry have been designated. Apprenticeship Committees meet periodically for the discussion of questions dealing with apprentices and their welfare.

The Employment Registration Bureau, which was opened in 1949, is organized in three main centres and ten sub-centres. The Manager of the Bureau is also the Statistician of the Labour Department. The Bureau has on its staff two placing officers, three interviewing officers, three travelling interviewing officers and eight clerks.

The purpose of the Bureau is to put employers seeking workers in touch with workers seeking employment. The worker is classified on the basis of an evaluation of all his occupational qualifications as shown by work-experience, training and personal characteristics; workers may also be trade-tested whenever and wherever necessary and are graded accordingly. Vocational guidance is given to certain categories, especially to demobilised ex-servicemen.

Vacancies in Government departments are normally filled on the advice of the Public Service Commission or, where the salary does not exceed Rs 2,880 p.a., by the promotion of serving officers selected departmentally. Vacancies not filled by promotion and of which the maximum salary is under Rs 2,880 p.a. (excluding Cadet posts) are required to be filled by selection from a short list of candidates supplied by the Employment Registration Bureau.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

There were at the end of the year 62 associations, consisting of 29 associations of employees, 10 of employers, 21 of Government servants and two of persons either working for themselves or hiring out their services. The total membership on the rolls is given as 18,822, of which 16,107 were paid-up members. One association was in a dormant state.

The most important workers' organisations are :

	No. <i>shown on roll</i>	No. <i>who have ceased to be members</i>	No. of <i>members on 31.12.57</i>
Sugar Industry Staff Employees Association	615	11	604
General Port and Harbour Workers' Union	1,610	75	1,535
Mauritius Government Manual Workers' Union	716	228	518
Artisans and General Workers' Union	1,420	343	1,077
Government Servants' and Employees' Association	2,382	553	1,829
Government Teachers' Union ...	166	—	166
Aided Primary School Teachers' Union	239	51	188
Amalgamated Labourers' Association	5,163	2	5,161
Senior Professional Civil Servants' Association	64	—	64
Agricultural Workers' Union ...	1,318	434	884

The most important employers' organisations are :

	No. of <i>members on 31.12.57</i>
Sugar Producers' Association	23
Federation of Port and Harbour Employers ...	12
Tobacco Producers' Syndicate	45
Cane Growers Association	35

LEGISLATION

The main legislation affecting labour relations is:—

The Labour Ordinance	Cap. 214
The Labour (Amendment) Ordinance	No. 33 of 1952
The Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Ordinance	Cap. 211, Ordinances No. 43 of 1945, No. 5 of 1952
The Factories Ordinance	No. 42 of 1946
The Shop Hours Ordinance	Cap. 409, Ordinances No. 56 of 1945 and No. 72 of 1946
The Shops (Amendment) Ordinance	No. 9 of 1952
The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance	Cap. 220
The Employment Exchange Ordinance	No. 67 of 1947
The Trade Disputes Ordinance	No. 37 of 1954
The Trade Union Ordinance	No. 36 of 1954
The Apprenticeship Ordinance	No. 13 of 1946
The Recruitment of Workers' Ordinance	Cap. 218
The Emigration Ordinance	Cap. 150
The Emigration Regulations	G. N. 156 of 1951
The Minimum Wages Ordinance	No. 36 of 1950
The Wages Regulation (Printing Trade) Order	G. N. No. 136 of 1952 No. 172 of 1953
The Wages Regulation (Messengers) Order	G. N. No. 4 of 1953
The Wages Regulation (Female Factory Workers) Order	G. N. No. 27 of 1953
The Wages Regulation (Shopping Trade) Order	G. N. No. 77 of 1955

THE EX-SERVICEMEN'S WELFARE FUND COMMITTEE

This committee is responsible for the distribution of approximately Rs 400,000 annually with the object of resettling ex-servicemen in civil life. Help is limited to those who served in the Forces during the war years, but there are still about 10,000 ex-servicemen who qualify as applicants.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The following tables give a comparison under the main heads of revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the years ended 30th June, 1939, 1956 and 1957.

REVENUE

Main Head	Year ended 30th June		
	1939 Rs	1956 Rs	1957 Rs
1. Direct Taxes	1,036,451	39,891,799	42,077,747
2. Indirect Taxes	11,411,317	53,938,212	55,235,266
3. Receipts from Public Utilities	1,390,767	10,509,185	10,864,831
4. Receipts from Public Services	1,082,113	6,494,763	5,123,520
5. Rental of Government Property	229,221	630,308	669,441
6. Interest and Royalties	486,474	3,527,071	5,174,701
7. Land Sales	329	7,550	25,544
8. Colonial Development and Welfare	15,858	5,222,785	1,539,404
9. Development and Welfare	—	20,678,695	1,097,412
10. Repayment of Loans and Advances	2,198,308	2,116,554	2,833,432
TOTAL	17,850,838	143,016,922	124,641,298

EXPENDITURE

Main Head	Year ended 30th June		
	1939 Rs	1956 Rs	1957 Rs
I.—PRIOR CHARGES			
1. Public Debt	2,292,014	5,027,277	6,430,331
2. Public Service Pensions	1,695,428	5,646,709	6,022,126
3. Defence	935,903	1,822,451	1,829,534
	<u>4,923,345</u>	<u>12,496,437</u>	<u>14,281,991</u>
II.—GOVERNANCE			
4. Governor	82,659	193,955	246,847
5. Central Administration	88,893	852,966	1,126,107
6. District Administration	—	252,896	300,114
7. Local Government	—	1,306,468	1,248,959
8. Accountant General	197,112	525,082	563,567
9. Archives	—	109,111	97,110
10. Audit	79,185	257,623	255,184
11. Central Statistical Office	—	168,278	177,084
12. Customs and Excise	—	1,494,382	1,833,210
12a. Customs, Harbour, Port and Marine	613,206	—	—
13. Development Establishment	—	535,698	185,856
14. Income Tax	—	391,603	439,162
15. Judicial	402,390	1,210,524	1,233,986
16. Legal	99,564	213,498	191,793
17. Legislature	12,889	419,249	424,314
18. Miscellaneous	1,107,217	1,911,226	1,397,843
19. Police	970,903	5,671,290	5,862,769
20. Printing Office	107,772	597,237	607,840
21. Prisons and Industrial School	178,741	1,190,191	1,207,077
22. Registrar General	113,897	316,447	294,564
23. Supplies Control	—	253,425	251,643
24. Public Works and Surveys Establishment	340,007	1,781,310	1,951,590
	<u>4,394,435</u>	<u>19,652,379</u>	<u>19,896,619</u>

Year ended 30th June

				1939	1956	1957
				Rs	Rs	Rs
III.—SOCIAL SERVICES						
25.	Co-operative Societies	...	...	—	198,615	212,079
26.	Ecclesiastical...	...	...	211,914	410,769	408,547
27.	Education	...	...	1,441,412	13,204,053	14,661,645
28.	Health	...	...	1,477,202	11,023,254	11,045,710
29.	Labour	...	...	770,307	452,823	487,362
30.	Mauritius Institute	...	...	17,115	102,796	98,121
31.	Public Assistance	...	...	—	8,409,174	9,519,716
32.	Social Welfare	...	...	—	584,672	584,274
				3,917,950	34,386,156	37,017,454
IV.—PUBLIC UTILITIES AND SERVICES						
34.	Agriculture	...	...	542,286	2,470,962	3,101,245
35.	Civil Aviation	...	...	—	419,034	377,420
36.	Telecommunications	...	...	178,248	1,854,360	1,692,332
37.	Fire Services	...	...	—	804,715	803,795
38.	Forests	...	...	203,331	2,186,450	2,200,455
39.	Granary	...	...	79,421	266,064	288,849
40.	Harbour and Quays	...	...	—	1,091,448	1,151,264
41.	Mauritius Broadcasting Service and Globe Reuter News Service	...	...	—	340,071	380,266
42.	Observatory	...	...	41,543	292,904	316,387
43.	Posts and Telegraphs	...	...	322,521	1,750,349	1,741,741
44.	Railways	...	...	765,444	6,063,647	5,884,316
				2,132,794	17,540,009	17,938,070
V.—INVESTMENT						
45.	Public Works Annually Recurrent	...	...	1,039,379	6,412,789	7,023,336
TOTAL ORDINARY EXPENDITURE				16,407,903	90,487,770	96,157,470
46.	Public Works Non-Recurrent	...	...	228,204	4,932,154	—
47.	Development Works and Projects	...	...	—	13,304,084	—
48.	Loans and Advances	...	...	—	11,490,549	—
49.	Reserves	...	...	—	12,500,000	13,347,502
				228,204	42,226,787	13,347,502
DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE						
	<i>Municipal</i>	...	...	398,317	—	—
	<i>Harbour</i>	...	...	143,755	—	—
	<i>Industrial School</i>	...	...	34,298	—	—
	<i>Emergency Services</i>	...	...	—	—	—
	<i>Subventions</i>	...	...	—	—	—
	<i>Special Expenditure</i>	...	...	6,788,462	—	—
				7,364,832	—	—
TOTAL EXPENDITURE				24,000,939	132,714,557	109,504,972

PUBLIC DEBT

The Public Debt of the Colony on the 30th June, 1957, was Rs 98,536,092. Against this liability there was an accumulated Sinking Fund of Rs 8,380,506.

Local loan issues accounted for Rs 23,877,500 of the Public Debt as detailed below:

	Rs
Agricultural Loan (No. 1) 1937	1,600,000
Agricultural Loan (No. 2) 1937	1,600,000
Mauritius Loan 1961	3,157,500
Mauritius Development and Welfare	
Loan 1971-81	3,072,000
Development (General Purposes) Loan 1964-74	14,448,000
TOTAL	<u>23,877,500</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
(omitting Special Funds deposited in the Public Treasury)

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
	Rs		Rs
Other Governments	165,560	Advances	15,169,571
Deposits	5,236,241	Cash Balance etc.	20,452,114
Mauritius Development and Welfare Fund	8,970,483	Investments	38,399,329
Loan Funds unexpended	17,409	Joint Consolidated Fund	27,080,000
Reserve Fund	22,000,000		<u>85,931,443</u>
General Revenue Balance	58,575,007	Deduct: Balances of Special Funds etc. in the hands of the Accountant General	4,851,604
Supplementary Sinking Fund	<u>1,284,710</u>		<u>81,079,839</u>
TOTAL	<u>96,249,410</u>	TOTAL	<u>6,249,410</u>

THE MAIN HEADS OF TAXATION AND
THEIR YIELD

	1955-56 Rs	1956-57 Rs
Customs :—		
Import Duties	28,269,160	28,471,944
Export Duties	66,931	90,090
Excise duty on Rum	10,292,563	9,722,434
Tobacco Excise	5,262,885	5,388,609
Licence Duties	4,928,392	5,094,413
Income Tax, (Companies and Bodies Corporate)	22,652,660	23,988,753
Income Tax (Others)	15,555,197	15,819,032
Tax on Sweepstakes and Lotteries	1,382,818	1,510,908

**THE NATIONAL INCOME FOR 1956 WAS CALCULATED BY THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE
TO BE RS 621,000,000**

Details of calculation are as follows :—

<i>Net National Product Industrial Origin</i>	<i>Rs (millions)</i>	<i>National Income Distribution</i>	<i>Rs (Millions)</i>	<i>Net National Expenditure Composition</i>	<i>Rs (millions)</i>
1. Agriculture, forestry, hunting, and fishing ...	195 31.4	1. Compensation of em- ployees ...	311 50.1	1. Private consumption ex- penditure on goods and services ...	455 73.3
2. Mining and Quarrying..	148 23.8	2. Income from farms, professions and other unincorporated enter- prises received by households ...	113 18.2	2. General Government consumption expendi- ture on goods and services ...	80 12.9
3. Manufacturing ...	28 4.5	3. Income from property received by households and private non-profit institutions ...	116 18.7	3. Net domestic fixed capital formation of private enterprises ...	35 5.6
4. Construction ...	59 9.5	4. Saving of corporations	45 7.2	4. Net domestic fixed capital formation of Government and public enterprises ...	20 3.2
5. Electricity, water and sanitary services ...	9 1.4	5. Direct taxes on corpo- rations ...	24 3.9	5. Net exports of goods and services ...	+85 13.7
6. Transportation, Storage and Communication ...	42 6.8	6. General Government income from property and entrepreneurship ...	19 3.0	6. Net factor income pay- ments from rest of the world ...	+ 3 +0.5
7. Wholesale and Retail Trade ...	16 2.6	7. Less Interest on public debt ...	-4 -0.6	7. Net National Expendi- ture at Market prices ...	678 109.2
8. Banking, Insurance and Real Estate ...	52 8.4	8. Less Interest on con- sumers' debt ...	-3 -0.5	8. Less Indirect Taxes ...	-57 -9.2
9. Ownership of dwellings	644 103.7			9. Plus Subsidies ...	— —
10. Public Administration	-26 -4.2				
11. Services ...	618 99.5				
12. Gross Domestic Pro- duct at factor cost ...	+3 +0.5				
13. Less provision for the consumption of fixed capital ...	621 100.0				
14. Net Domestic Product at factor cost ...					
15. Plus Net factor income from the rest of the World ...					
16. NET NATIONAL PRO- DUCT AT FACTOR COST..					
		9. NATIONAL INCOME ..	621 100.0	10. NET NATIONAL EXPEN- DITURE AT FACTOR COST	621 100.0

COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF NATIONAL INCOME GROWTH

Year	National Income Rs million	Increase on 1950 per cent	Resident population June 30th in each year	Actual per capita income Rs	*Real per capita income Rs	Increase or decrease per cent
1950 ...	410	—	466,052	880	880	—
1951 ...	465	13	483,859	961	907	+3.1
1952 ...	518	26	502,075	1,032	852	-6.1
1953 ...	583	42	516,525	1,129	918	+7.7
1954 ...	576	40	530,461	1,086	890	-3.1
1955 ...	594	45	549,094	1,082	880	-1.1
1956 ...	621	51	568,886	1,092	836	-5.0

CUSTOMS TARIFF

The present tariff, which was brought into force by the Customs Tariff Ordinance (No. 26 of 1954), is based on the Standard International Trade Classification. The first schedule to this tariff comprises three main sections: import duties, exemptions, and export duties. Provision is made for the imposition of a preferential tariff on goods produced or manufactured in the United Kingdom and certain other territories, but admission of the goods to preference is dependent on the production of supporting evidence including prescribed certificates of origin and value. In the absence of this information, the general tariff rate is charged.

Export duties are levied on sugar and molasses, and in addition there are small duties imposed on goods exported from bond, goods in transit, and goods reshipped after being landed from distressed vessels.

PACKAGE TAX

A package tax is levied under the Package Tax Ordinance (No. 32 of 1951) on all goods shown in the first schedule thereof, imported and landed at any port in the Colony. This tax is levied at variable low rates.

Exemptions are provided for in the second schedule to the Ordinance.

EXCISE DUTIES

Excise duties are leviable on Colonial spirits (rum), country liquor (Mauritius Fruit Wine), tobacco, matches, spirits used in the manufacture of denatured spirits (except for power purposes), vinegar, tinctures and drugs, and perfumed spirits. The consumption of rum during the year showed a small increase over the previous year. The revenue collected in respect of country liquor showed a slight decrease over the figure for the previous year.

*i.e. income reduced to constant prices (1950).

STAMP DUTIES

Stamp duties are of three kinds:

Schedule "A" to the Stamps Ordinance (Cap. 160), specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to a duty in proportion to the size of paper used. The tariff ranges from 30 cents to Rs 1.80.

Schedule "B" specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to a fixed stamp duty. The amounts vary from 10 cents to Rs 18.

Schedule "C" specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to an *ad valorem* duty. These include Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Policies of Insurance, Debentures. The duties are mainly on a sliding scale.

The Stamp Duties collected in respect of impressed paper during the financial year 1956-57 amounted to Rs 767,526.

INCOME TAX

Income Tax is imposed by the provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance (No. 84 of 1950), as subsequently amended.

The following schedule shows the rates of tax payable by individuals:

	Chargeable Income	Rate of Tax
	Rs	%
For every rupee of the first	5,000	10
For every rupee of the next	5,000	15
do. do.	5,000	20
do. do.	5,000	30
do. do.	5,000	40
do. do.	10,000	50
do. do.	15,000	60
do. do.	25,000	70
do. do.	25,000	75
Remainder of the chargeable income	...	80

The rate of tax applicable to companies is 40 per cent of the amount of chargeable income.

Collections in the year 1956-57 amounted to Rs 39,807,785 as compared with Rs 38,207,857 in 1955-56.

DEATH DUTY

The system of assessing succession duties was revised in 1956 and with effect from the 1st July of that year death duty is payable on the value of the property accruing to each beneficiary at a rate dependent upon the degree of relationship to the deceased and the net value of such property, without aggregation of the whole estate.

The duty collected during 1957 amounted to Rs 666,815.38 as compared with Rs 1,433,213 in 1956.

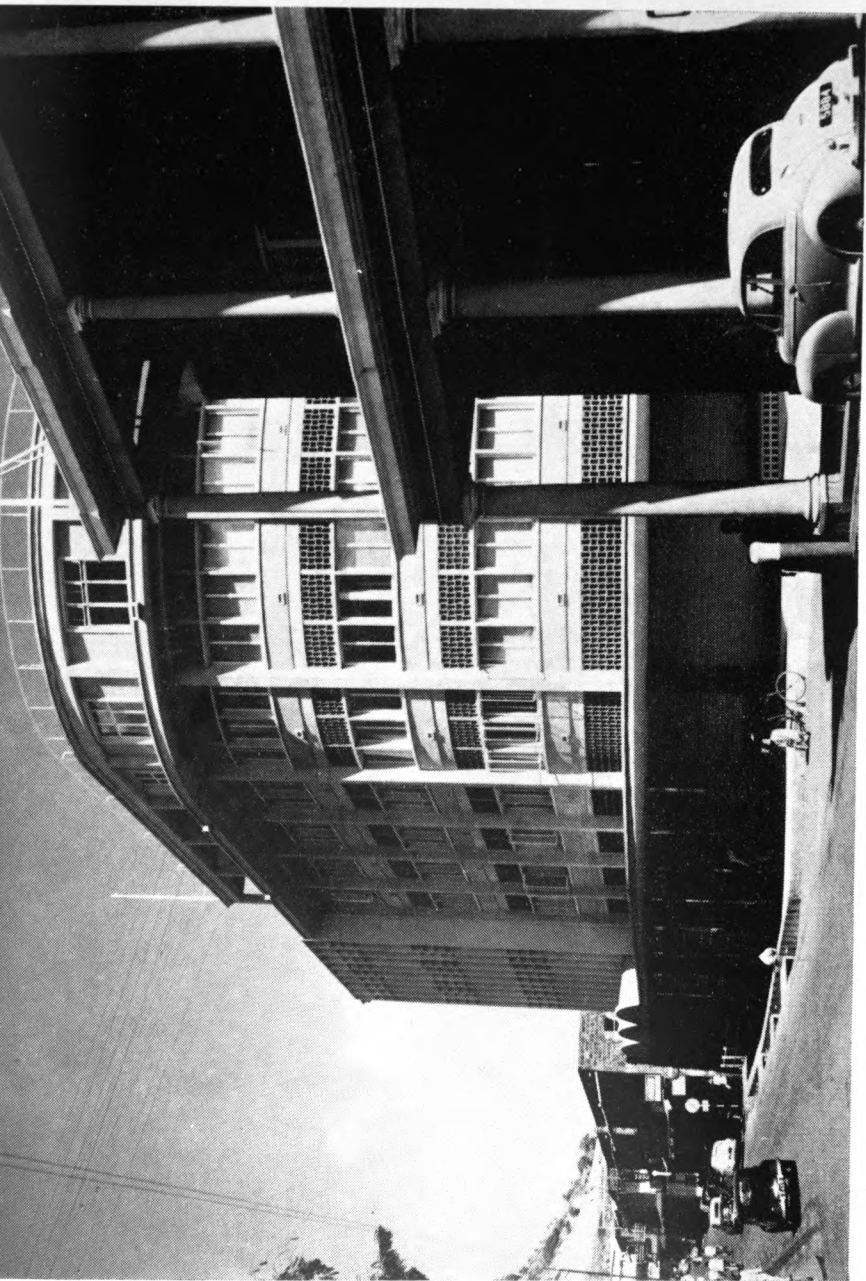
LOCAL AUTHORITIES FINANCES

The undermentioned table gives comparative figures of revenue and expenditure of the four urban local authorities for the last financial year:—

<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Revenue Rs</i>	<i>Expenditure Rs</i>
Municipality of Port Louis (excluding Housing Scheme)	1957	2,701,882	2,629,240
Town Council of Beau Bassin—Rose Hill (excluding Housing Scheme) ...	1956-57	861,164	856,682
Town Council of Quatre Bornes (excluding Housing Scheme) ...	1956-57	377,103	393,826
Town Council of Curepipe (excluding Housing Scheme)	1956-57	928,866	941,728

DISTRICT AND VILLAGE COUNCILS

The three District Councils established under Ordinance No. 76 of 1951 and the District Administration for Plaines Wilhems—Black River which started functioning in September, 1955, receive subsidies and grants from the Government which are partly allocated to the Village Councils, according to estimates approved by the District Councils and the District Administration. In addition to any taxation which may be imposed by the Village Councils, the District Councils have the right to levy taxes which do not apply to any particular village, such as advertisement and placard tax and entertainment tax. The total estimates of expenditure for the existing 106 Village Councils amounted to approximately Rs 714,100. Government grants to the District Councils and the District Administration, including subsidies for scavenging and roads, totalled Rs 744,537. Revenue from entertainment tax totalled Rs 72,361.



THE NEW BUILDING OF THE MAURITIUS AGRICULTURAL BANK, PORT LOUIS

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

CURRENCY

The local unit of currency is the Mauritius Rupee, which is subdivided into 100 cents. The rupee is equivalent to 1s. 6d. sterling.

The notes in circulation are of denominations of Rs 25, Rs 10 and Rs 5. There is in addition a Rs 1,000 note which is legal tender only between the local banks and the Government.

Amendments to the Mauritius Currency Notes Regulations, 1938, were published as Government Notice No. 64 of 1956, shortening the procedure for the destruction of notes of the value of Rs 10 and under.

The coins in circulation are the following:

Cupro-Nickel: One Rupee, Half-Rupee, Quarter-Rupee and Ten Cents.

Bronze: 5 cents, 2 cents and 1 cent.

The value of currency in circulation for the last three financial years is given hereunder—:

		30th June, 1955	30th June, 1956	30th June, 1957
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Notes	...	50,689,000	48,550,000	52,890,000
Coins	...	3,419,400	3,503,000	3,667,000
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	...	54,108,400	52,053,000	56,557,000
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

LOCAL BANKS

Three trading banks operate in Mauritius: The Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd., The Mercantile Bank Ltd. and Barclays Bank D.C.O.

Savings bank facilities are provided by the Post Office Savings Bank, The Mauritius Agricultural Bank, The Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd., Barclays Bank D.C.O. and The Mercantile Bank Ltd.

Long-term loans for agricultural and housing purposes are provided by the Mauritius Agricultural Bank, while Barclays Overseas Development Corporation Limited undertakes medium-term finance on a commercial basis for sound development projects of all kinds. There is, however, a lack of financial institutions specialising in long-term loans to individual borrowers for such purposes as housing, although loans against mortgages are obtainable from private sources. The Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank Ltd. provides finance on a seasonal basis for the cultivation requirements of the co-operative credit movement. The Government also provides assistance to local industry in the form of medium term loans.

The Mauritius Commercial Bank was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1838 with a capital of Rs 2,000,000, which was increased in 1948 to Rs 3,000,000. The Bank was registered as a Limited Liability Company in August, 1955. The Bank's Head Office is in Port Louis with branches at Curepipe, Rose Hill, Mahebourg and Quatre Bornes. Its London agents are Lloyds Bank Limited. It has correspondents all over the world and is able to offer a complete banking service. The total deposits at the Head Office and its branches as at the 31st December, 1957, amounted to Rs 92,862,946.23 and reserves stood at Rs 4,256,177.

The Mercantile Bank Limited, formerly the Mercantile Bank of India Limited, took over the business of the Bank of Mauritius Limited on the 31st May, 1916. The paid-up capital of the Bank at the 31st December, 1957, was £2,940,000. Reserve funds and unappropriated profits amounted to £2,224,521. Through its Head Office in London and its branches throughout India, Malaya and the Far East, the Mercantile Bank Limited is able to offer comprehensive banking facilities to the people of Mauritius.

Barclays Bank D.C.O. has its Head Office in London and over 1,000 branches in Africa, the Mediterranean area, the Carribbean area, England, New York and Hamburg, with correspondents in all other important centres. The paid-up capital of the Bank was £12,932,250 as at the 30th September, 1957, and the Reserve Fund was £9,500,000. The Bank, which is affiliated with Barclays Bank Ltd., was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1836 as the Colonial Bank and reincorporated by Act of Parliament in 1925; the name was then changed to Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) which amalgamated with the Anglo-Egyptian Bank Ltd. and the National Bank of South Africa Ltd. The Port Louis, Mauritius branch was established by the last named Bank in December, 1919 and was taken over by Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) following the amalgamation. The name of the Bank was changed to Barclays Bank D.C.O. in 1954. There are also branches of the Bank at Curepipe, Rose Hill and Vacoas. The Bank acts as Agent for Barclays Overseas Development Corporation Ltd., which was formed to assist in the economic development of territories in which the Bank operates and which had a paid-up capital of £6,000,000 on the 30th September, 1957.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK

The Post Office Savings Bank is operated by the Posts and Telegraphs Department. At the 30th June, 1957, the Bank had 70,750 active accounts and 20,798 dormant accounts with a balance

due to depositors of Rs 27,205,152. Savings Bank business is transacted at 31 Post Offices. During 1957, transactions amounted in number and value to 49,188 deposits totalling Rs 13,398,546 and 59,494 withdrawals totalling Rs 14,225,339. Accounts are regarded as dormant if no transaction takes place for a period of twenty years.

THE MAURITIUS AGRICULTURAL BANK

The Mauritius Agricultural Bank was established by Ordinance No. 1 of 1936 as a "body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal . . . for the purpose of making long-term loans for agricultural needs."

It started its activities in 1937 with a capital of Rs 10,000,000 which was raised by loans, locally and overseas, by Government. Of this amount Rs 400,000 has been reimbursed by the Bank which had also contributed at the 31st December, 1957, Rs 1,389,280 to a sinking fund.

The first change in the constitution of the Bank occurred in 1940 when the minimum for loans (which had been Rs 5,000) was abolished and the Bank was authorised to draw Bills on the Treasury to finance loans for amounts under Rs 5,000.

The Mauritius Economic Commission (1948) recommended that the Bank's capital be increased and the scope of its activities extended to meet the needs of industrial as well as agricultural enterprises. Legislation was passed to this effect and to authorise the Bank to make long-term loans for housing (Ordinance No. 68 of 1950).

In 1949 the Bank had been authorised to raise Rs 3,000,000 from the public by the sale of short-term bills. By Ordinance No. 68 of 1950 it was further empowered:

- (a) to raise funds from the public by the issue of long-term debentures, by the issue of subscription debentures payable monthly and quarterly and by accepting fixed deposits for 12-36 months and saving deposits;
- (b) to arrange long-term loans and bank overdrafts.

One of the objects of authorising the Bank to raise funds from the public was to encourage saving in the Colony and it was hoped that the wide choice of investments would prove attractive. At the 31st December, 1957, there were:

- 1,954 Savings Accounts for Rs 1,841,547
- 305 Fixed Deposit Accounts for Rs 2,446,350
- 190 Accounts for Subscription Debentures for Rs 263,636

At the 31st December, 1957, the Bank had paid out Rs 53,630,522 in loans as follows:

	Rs
For agriculture	41,360,025
For housing	11,420,507
For industry	579,990
TOTAL ...	53,630,522

The Bank has been entrusted with the management of the loans granted under the Hurricane Loan Ordinance (1945), the Rehabilitation of Factories and Rolling Stock Ordinance (1949), and the Aloe Fibre Industry (Development) Ordinance (1952). The total amount outstanding on its books due by borrowers at the 31st December, 1957, was Rs 47,179,860, of which Rs 35,104,948 consisted of Agricultural Bank loans proper (including Rs 8,767,781 for housing loans), Rs 8,743,818 due by borrowers under the 1945 Hurricane Loan Ordinance, Rs 3,123,399 due by borrowers under the Rehabilitation of Factories and Rolling Stock Ordinance and Rs 207,695 due by borrowers under the Aloe Fibre Industry (Development) Ordinance.

The demand for loans since 1950 has been far in excess of the resources of the Bank.

The following is a summary of the Bank's balance sheet as at the 31st December, 1957:

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
	Rs		Rs
Mauritius Government ...	10,584,000	Loans	35,104,948
Debentures and Sub-		Cash	410,056
Debentures	16,006,636	Investments	1,190,076
Deposits	6,537,897	Other Assets	2,102,664
Short-term Bills	2,580,950	Sinking Fund Contribu-	
Internal A/cs and other		tions	1,389,280
liabilities	351,602		
Sinking Fund	1,389,280		40,197,024
Reserves and Profit and			
Loss A/c	2,746,659		
	40,197,024	Hurricane Loan 1945 ...	8,743,818
Funds administered on		Rehabilitation Loans ...	3,123,399
behalf of the Colonial		Aloe Fibre Industry	
Government	12,074,913	Loans	207,695
TOTAL ...	52,271,937		52,271,937

BANKING STATISTICS

NUMBER OF REPORTING BANKS : 4

Figures for quarter ended 31st December, 1957

LIABILITIES			Rs	ASSETS			Rs
1. Notes in circulation	...	...	—	1. Cash	...	...	7,054
2. Deposits :—				2. Balances due by other banks in the Colony	...	...	2,108
(1) Demand	...	...	127,133	3. Balances due from banks abroad	...	...	113,885
(2) Time	...	...	37,108	4. Loans and advances :—			
(3) Savings	...	...	8,126	(1) Primary production (including processing of primary products)	...	...	37,912
3. Balances due to :—				(2) Other industries (including Commerce, Transport and Distribution)	...	...	18,615
(1) Other banks in the Colony	...	...	2,558	(3) Other advances	...	...	33,864
(2) Banks abroad	...	...	1,832	5. Investment :—			
4. Other Liabilities, etc.	...	...	52,000	(a) Local	...	...	6,283
				(b) Other	...	...	2,407
				6. Other Assets	...	...	6,629
TOTAL LIABILITIES	...	...	228,757	TOTAL ASSETS	...	...	228,757

NOTE:—The figures above are in thousand rupees to the nearest thousand.

BANK RATES

The buying and selling rates for telegraphic transfers were at the end of 1957 roughly as under:

	Buying			Selling		
BRITISH STERLING						
Under £ 5,000	...	Rs 13.25 per £ 1	...	Rs 13.43 per £ 1		
£ 5,000 and over	...	Rs 13.26 „	...	Rs 13.40 „		
CANADIAN DOLLARS	...	Rs 4.95 per \$ 1	...	Rs 5.05 per \$ 1		
U.S.A. DOLLARS	...	Rs 4.72½ per \$ 1	...	Rs 4.82 per \$ 1		
SOUTH AFRICAN POUNDS						
Under £ 5,000	...	Rs 13.20 per £ 1	...	Rs 13.45 per £ 1		
£ 5,000 and over	...	Rs 13.20 „	...	Rs 13.42 „		
AUSTRALIAN POUNDS	...	Rs 10.50 per £1	...	Rs 10.85 per £ 1		
FRENCH FRANCS						
France	...	Rs 1.05 per 100 francs	...	Rs 1.20 per 100 francs		
C.F.A.	...	Rs 2.10 per 100 francs	...	Rs 2.40 „		
OTHER CURRENCIES						
India and Pakistan	...	At par	...	1 % premium		
E. Africa	...	Rs 66.50 per 100 shs	...	Rs 67.15 per 100 shs.		

The control of foreign exchange was maintained in 1957 under the Mauritius Exchange Control Ordinance, 1951, which was enacted on the lines of the United Kingdom Exchange Control Act, 1947, and thus ensures similarity of practice in exchange control matters in the Scheduled Territories.

Chapter 5 : Commerce

The commerce of the Colony depends almost entirely on the sugar crop which in 1957 yielded 561,598 metric tons as compared with 571,848 metric tons in 1956. High degree alcohol, a by-product of sugar, is produced mainly for local consumption and the quantity exported in 1957 was negligible. The exportation of molasses, another by-product of sugar, was 72,539 metric tons in 1957 against 52,694 metric tons in 1956 and 53,957 metric tons in 1955. Exports of tea reached 441 metric tons as compared with 152 metric tons in 1956.

A small part of the Colony's demand for foodstuffs is met by local production, namely, meat, sugar, salt, tea, fruit and vegetables, fish (fresh and dried) and coconut oil. Local industries produce cigarettes, matches, aloe fibre bags for sugar, rum and country liquor. The bulk of the needs of the Colony are met by importing from other countries.

Imports of rice, the staple food of the Colony, reached 62,080 metric tons as compared with 45,101 metric tons in 1956 and 58,171 metric tons in 1955. Frozen meat and wheaten flour were imported mainly from Australia, beef on the hoof from Madagascar, and considerable quantities of foodstuffs from the United Kingdom and the Union of South Africa.

The United Kingdom continues to be the principal source of supply for manufactured goods such as textiles, apparel, machinery, motor vehicles, hardware and electrical goods. Large quantities of cotton piece, goods are received from India and large supplies of general merchandise from Hong Kong. Manufactured fertilizers are imported mainly from the United Kingdom, Belgium, France and Germany.

DIRECTION OF EXPORT TRADE

	1955 Rs	1956 Rs	1957 Rs
<i>Preferential Tariff Countries</i>			
United Kingdom	199,959,930	223,805,651	231,320,172
Aden	1,300	—	—
Australia and New Zealand ...	188,480	764,859	443,035
British East Africa	309,364	1,087,157	937,726
Canada	40,969,034	54,418,168	43,776,475
Ceylon	7	5,936,594	5,347,956
Hong Kong	41,539	91,071	6,186,913
India	4,162	12,831	4,964
Malaya (including Singapore) ...	258,776	2,308,029	1,358,051
Seychelles	544,441	437,398	552,371
Southern Rhodesia	11,681	14,452	12,018
Union of South Africa	256,012	157,845	284,766
Other Preferential Tariff Countries	30,093	14,893	33,105
TOTAL ...	242,574,819	289,048,948	290,257,552
<i>General Tariff Countries</i>			
Belgium	37,387	24,618	838,000
France	137,763	92,175	61,663
Germany (Western)	20,043	157,859	35,029
Holland	112,836	657,445	383,327
Iran	—	—	*8,760,448
Italy	133	83,202	650,377
Japan	40,362	587	15,122,156
Korea	—	—	†892,599
Lebanon	2,800	4,020	402,560
Madagascar	389,115	552,379	510,736
Portuguese East Africa	—	—	51,721
Reunion	372,252	467,255	394,265
Sweden	56	—	—
Syria	—	—	*4,023,360
United States of America ...	1,158,005	33,063	361,953
Other General Tariff Countries ..	48,991	28,597	47,912
TOTAL ...	2,319,743	2,101,200	32,536,160
Sugar Quota Certificates ...	6,872,333	6,928,000	7,104,610
GRAND TOTAL OF EXPORTS ...	251,766,895	298,078,148	329,898,268

DIRECTION OF IMPORT TRADE

	1955 Rs	1956 Rs	1957 Rs
<i>Preferential Tariff Countries</i>			
United Kingdom	100,635,190	76,177,340	93,618,041
Aden	2,713,390	1,459,232	607,731
Australia and New Zealand ...	17,721,084	13,900,941	17,706,636
Bahrein	1,042,180	2,443,132	239,162
British East Africa	1,126,299	3,940,220	4,159,177
British West Indies	441,784	221,344	322,041
Burma	27,913,876	15,614,452	35,219,578

Carried over ...

*Due to exportation of sugar

†Due to exportation of molasses

DIRECTION OF IMPORT TRADE—continued

	1955 Rs	1956 Rs	1957 Rs
<i>Brought forward</i> ...			
Canada	15,903	529,694	572,142
Ceylon	223,285	145,719	163,828
Cyprus	97,982	39,400	22,056
Eire	33,046	24,077	8,688
Hong Kong	4,731,720	3,739,069	5,029,891
India	25,540,948	23,422,530	14,012,582
Malaya (including Singapore) ...	4,488,794	3,590,251	4,232,192
Pakistan	21,429	1,215,201	88,576
Southern Rhodesia	509,339	667,034	274,843
Seychelles	264,661	409,187	458,959
Union of South Africa	10,694,327	13,628,481	19,736,717
Other Preferential Tariff Countries	31,469	61,609	71,100
TOTAL	198,246,706	161,228,913	196,543,940
<i>General Tariff Countries</i>			
Belgium	5,737,316	12,789,745	6,665,550
Chile	29	2,297,016	—
Czechoslovakia	737,987	693,273	524,052
Denmark	177,195	389,146	555,692
Ethiopia	388,973	762,865	1,396,612
France	10,659,138	8,070,945	11,788,314
Germany	6,766,957	10,845,056	9,339,166
Holland	2,229,574	2,488,818	3,366,224
Hungary	22,940	106,847	189,203
Iran	2,323,534	5,658,754	9,844,050
Italy (including Sicily)	959,927	1,848,350	772,160
Japan	3,240,917	2,665,911	3,853,443
Luxembourg	226,646	159,456	764,326
Madagascar	2,631,801	2,880,113	2,785,081
Morocco	165,743	527,779	324,605
Netherlands East Indies	—	—	—
Netherlands West Indies	1,179,163	227,515	43,036
Norway	176,925	187,246	330,983
Poland	215,675	270,789	306,133
Portugal	794,820	534,568	918,356
Portuguese East Africa	2,036,759	2,193,766	361,298
Russia	2,919	12,758	9,473
Saudi Arabia	15,874	354,609	150
Siam	2,190,902	1,846,270	2,974,112
Spain	206,434	124,549	186,642
Sudan	579,662	935,071	119
Sweden	994,232	750,972	1,089,299
Switzerland	1,042,179	832,026	919,221
United States of America	4,622,142	4,312,626	5,815,100
Yugoslavia	62	806	854
Other General Tariff Countries ...	1,706,168	2,024,371	1,837,538
TOTAL	52,032,603	66,792,016	66,960,792
BAGGAGE	192,938	128,553	313,156
GRAND TOTAL OF IMPORTS ...	250,472,247	228,149,482	263,817,888

TRADE FIGURES

I—IMPORTS*

Principal Imports	1955 Total = Rs 230,472,247			1956 Total = Rs 228,149,482			1957 Total = Rs 263,817,888			Main Countries of Supply
	Quantity	C.I.F. Value		Quantity	C.I.F. Value		Quantity	C.I.F. Value		
Rice	58,171 M. Tons	Rs 40,878,599	...	45,101 M. Tons	Rs 27,364,139	...	62,081 M. Tons	Rs 36,099,141	...	Burma and Siam.
Wheaten flour	23,089 "	10,310,297	...	17,012 "	6,463,583	...	19,269 "	7,927,083	...	Australia and France.
Other grain and grain products	9,802 "	5,455,321	...	7,950 "	5,424,423	...	9,470 "	5,710,373	...	Australia, India, Union of South Africa
Cattle and meat	...	3,975,050	...	...	4,124,671	...	...	3,996,887	...	Ethiopia, Burma.
Edible oils and fats	4,738 "	7,338,010	...	5,281 "	8,805,960	...	6,452 "	12,142,028	...	Madagascar (cattle) Australia (Meat),
Beverages	...	3,111,732	...	...	2,946,963	...	...	3,455,529	...	Uganda, Union of South Africa, Singapore,
Coal	9,181 "	841,613	...	19,376 "	1,531,753	...	...	1,715,095	...	Portuguese East Africa, France,
Petroleum products	...	9,515,889	...	...	12,322,851	...	...	13,098,546	...	United Kingdom and Singapore.
Wood and wood manufactures	...	5,194,205	...	...	4,848,473	...	...	5,191,097	...	South Africa, Holland and Singapore.
Gunny bags	1,344,615 No.	1,804,360	...	3,245,253 No.	3,885,059	...	...	2,837,019	...	Union of South Africa.
Cotton piece goods	8,194,399 sq. ms.	10,437,672	...	6,545,202 Sq. ms.	8,467,208	...	17,255 "	12,498,036	...	Iran, United States of America, United
Silk piece goods	2,288,516 "	4,188,652	...	2,213,935 "	3,753,162	...	...	3,634,609	...	Kingdom and Union of South Africa.
Woollen piece goods	215,256 "	2,577,514	...	160,008 "	1,872,371	...	...	1,647,985	...	Malaya, Singapore, Burma, Siam,
Vehicles :-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Australia and Sweden.
(1) Road :-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	India
(a) Motor cars	959 No.	6,193,874	...	471 No.	3,280,655	...	728 No.	5,238,833	...	United Kingdom, India, Japan and
(b) Other	...	5,858,377	...	...	4,643,282	...	...	5,634,792	...	United Kingdom, Western Germany,
(2) Railway and tramway locomotives and accessories	...	434,803	...	...	913,473	...	...	676,034	...	Canada and France.
(3) Ships, aircraft and accessories	...	1,532,345	...	...	4,110,901	...	...	73,204	...	United Kingdom.
Cement	46,376 M. Tons	6,434,428	...	38,135 M. Tons	5,365,909	...	42,987 M. Tons	6,307,414	...	United Kingdom and United States of
Machinery	3,117 "	15,708,926	...	2,052 "	10,804,254	...	3,156 "	15,601,760	...	America.
Electrical goods	...	8,087,100	...	...	8,022,110	...	...	11,145,862	...	United Kingdom, Union of South Africa
Iron and steel goods	15,596 "	17,893,318	...	11,692 "	14,003,818	...	15,985 "	18,988,864	...	and Belgium.
Manures and Fertilizers	36,790 "	12,270,800	...	52,141 "	16,605,122	...	47,948 "	15,087,314	...	United Kingdom, United States of
Paper and paper manufactures	1,298 "	2,503,062	...	1,134 "	2,538,186	...	1,301 "	2,878,896	...	America and France.
			...			...			...	United Kingdom, France, Holland,
			...			...			...	Western Germany, Belgium, Western
			...			...			...	Germany, France, Australia, Japan,
			...			...			...	United Kingdom, Belgium, Western
			...			...			...	Germany, France, Holland, Eastern
			...			...			...	Germany, Italy, Seychelles and
			...			...			...	Madagascar.
			...			...			...	United Kingdom, Western Germany,
			...			...			...	Sweden, Czechoslovakia.

Excluding Bullion and Specie valued at Rs 99,996 in 1955, Rs 74,336 in 1956 and Rs 141,327 in 1957.

II.—Exports*

Principal Exports	1955			1956			1957			Main Countries of Destination
	Quantity	F.O.B. Value		Quantity	F.O.B. Value		Quantity	F.O.B. Value		
		Rs			Rs			Rs		
(a) Domestic Exports	...	...	241,587,467	...	...	287,076,993	...	...	315,280,649	
(b) Sugar Quota Certificates	...	...	6,872,333	...	...	6,928,000	...	...	7,104,610	
(c) Re-Exports ...	...	...	3,307,095	...	...	4,073,155	...	...	7,513,009	
TOTAL	...	...	251,766,895	...	...	298,078,148	...	...	329,898,268	
Sugar	475,358 M.Tons	244,205,676†	539,978 M.Tons	282,379,233†	585,603 M.Tons	307,310,370†	United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, Iran, Hong Kong and Ceylon.			
Molasses	53,937 "	2,941,206	52,694 "	3,403,043	72,539 "	5,387,852	United Kingdom, Korea, Japan, Belgium.			
Rum	295 Hectols	23,057	255 Hectols	21,171	308 Hectols	25,553	Hong Kong, Seychelles.			
Aloe Fibre	186 M.Tons	99,565	99 M.Tons	49,811	—	—	Western Germany, Belgium and France.			
Tea	176 "	944,618	152 "	818,422	441 M.Tons	2,271,899	United Kingdom and Union of South Africa.			

* Exports of bullion and specie :—

In 1955	...	Rs
In 1956	...	—
In 1957	...	60,000

† Including Value of Sugar Quota Certificates.

Chapter 6 : Production

LAND UTILISATION AND WATER CONSERVATION

Mauritius covers an area of 460,800 acres, of which about 206,000 acres are under cultivation of a very efficient type as compared with many other territories. Beyond the crops from this land the Island produces little else with which to meet the requirements of a population numbering 596,600 at a density of about 815 per square mile. The balance of the agricultural land is made up of rough meadow, grass and scrub lands, including wild-growing aloe fibre, and totals about 110,000 acres.

The non-agricultural lands consist of about 88,400 acres of forests and natural reserves and about 54,000 acres of permanent waste lands, built-up areas, rivers, ponds and lakes.

The central and elevated part of the Island, above the 100" isohyet, is mostly covered with forest and scrub land to protect and regulate the water resources. In this area cultivation, except for tea, is not very conspicuous. No laws specially protecting this natural watershed exist except those giving protection to Mountain and River Reserves.

The main upland water catchment area is mostly Crown property and utilized for the production of forest produce, fuel and fodder, with a limited acreage under tea and other crops. Water resources are mainly dependent on the incidence of nearby cyclonic disturbances bringing rain, most of which falls in the hot season or in the heavy downpours accompanying cyclonic disturbances. Several reservoirs have been constructed in order to hold this water for utilization, both for domestic and irrigation purposes and for the production of electrical energy. Progress continued during the year on the construction of the major system of reservoirs which is scheduled for completion in the near future.

LAND OWNERSHIP

In the early days of French colonization land was conceded to settlers almost all over the Island. Later, land ownership was governed by the French Civil Code or "Code Napoléon", which is still in force. This provides for equal division of property among the heirs, often resulting ultimately, in the case of land, in excessive fragmentation. The demand for land is accentuated by the rapid

growth of population, leading to the inflation of land values. Grouping of estates into companies has checked fragmentation for the bulk of the land, although for a time speculation led to a system of parcelling known as *morcellement* when large tracts of land were purchased and sold again in numerous small lots.

LAND TENURE

The Island was uninhabited when first colonized. Its original permanent settlers were the French who, through the grant of concessions, became the original freehold owners of all the land except Crown lands. At present, apart from Crown lands, including Crown forests and the "Pas Géométriques" which total 83,000 acres, the land is owned in large or small lots by all sections of the community. Roughly 75 per cent is owned by companies and private estates, the remainder being the property of the Indo-Mauritian section of the population. In addition to freehold tenure, land is also held leasehold and on share-cropping agreements

Leasehold tenure is practised to a limited extent on privately-owned lands and on Crown lands. In the case of Crown lands, leasing is generally by auction to the highest bidder but it may also be by contract. Leases vary from 3 to 30 years with security of tenure to satisfactory tenants. Various types of share-cropping in the form of ' *métayage* ' exist.

RENTING SYSTEM

Rentals are either cash, crop-sharing or "Taungya". Cash rentals are payable monthly, quarterly or annually; in crop-sharing the proportion of the crop handed over as rental varies according to circumstances and the nature of the crop; under the "Taungya" system, which is adopted especially in Crown forest areas, the tenant is permitted to grow vegetables or annual crops between the young trees provided he keeps the trees clear of weeds and fills up the gaps. This is a temporary system, as cultivation is discontinued as soon as the trees are developed.

LAND AND WATER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

These include provision for:

- (a) increased reservoir construction both for domestic and irrigation purposes, the latter leading to increased cultivation of land;
- (b) increased generation of electrical power.

LAND SETTLEMENT

About 70 years ago the process of parcelling land known as *morcellement* began. In the years which followed it gained momentum until some thirty years ago when, after a last short spurt, it practically ceased to operate, except occasionally at irregular intervals. This has resulted in the automatic, if unorganized, settlement on the land of a large number of peasant proprietors who, by thrift, became owners of their own plots of land. In recent years organized settlement was attempted and a pilot scheme was put under way. The first settlement at Petit Sable worked quite satisfactorily. There are 10 residential small-holdings, 40 allotments and 85 onion plots. Small-holders are allowed to plant half of their plots with sugarcane. The co-operative credit society into which the tenants formed themselves functions smoothly. Membership of a co-operative credit society is an essential feature of land settlement schemes.

Nineteen tenants are established at Richelieu. At Terre Rouge, over an area of 300 acres cleared in 1954, 102 tenants are established.

There are no laws relating specifically to settlement, but where suitable Crown land is not available in any area, the Government can use compulsory powers to acquire land under the Land Acquisition Ordinance (No. 77 of 1952).

AGRICULTURE

Department of Agriculture

The permanent and pensionable staff of the Department numbers 262 as follows:

<i>Staff as at 31st December, 1957</i>							
<i>Division</i>						<i>Present staff</i>	<i>No. of Vacancies</i>
Administrative Division	...	...	...	...	...	20	2
Agricultural Division	...	...	...	...	...	50	1
Livestock Division	...	...	...	...	...	47	4
Tea Division	...	...	...	...	...	15	2
Plant Pathology Division	...	...	...	...	...	6	—
Entomological Division	...	...	...	...	...	9	3
Agricultural Chemistry Division	...	...	...	...	...	6	1
Engineering Division	...	...	...	...	...	8	2
Central Board Division	...	...	...	...	...	14	2
Agricultural College Division	...	...	...	...	...	15	2
Rodrigues Division (attached to Agricultural Division)	...	...	...	...	...	9	1
Fisheries Division	...	...	...	...	...	63	—
TOTAL						262	19

The general policy laid down for the Department of Agriculture is to promote the most efficient use of all lands available for and capable of cultivation and to foster the most efficient production of livestock and livestock products.

The primary objective is the establishment and maintenance of an adequate cadre of trained technical staff within the Department. Training is done in the first instance at the College of Agriculture, which provides a three-year course. A programme of study leave enables local officers to be trained overseas to meet the requirements of the Department for specialist and senior professional staff.

The second objective is the provision of an agricultural extension service which gives to the farmer readily available assistance and advice and translates into general agricultural practice the information obtained from the experimental stations.

Associated with both the foregoing objectives is the development of experimental stations in each of the major climatic zones of the Colony for the purpose of investigation under competent supervision of crops, stocks and methods suited to the particular area.

The sugar industry is the main source of wealth and employment in the Colony and Government policy is to encourage development of that industry to the limits imposed by overseas markets. The industry has its own Sugar Research Institute, which covers research in both the field and factory aspects of sugar cane.

The Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Sugar Research Institute, undertakes extension work having as one of its principal aims the raising of small planters' yields to a figure more comparable with that of the estates. The Department also maintains a plant inspection service to prevent introduction of new pests and diseases, controls the Cane Quarantine Greenhouse and administers the Central Cane Arbitration Board.

The development of secondary industries has long been an important item of the Department's policy and everything is done to encourage the development of the tea, tobacco and fibre industries, and small planters are encouraged to produce cash vegetable and food crops. Encouragement of the local production of meat and milk within the limits imposed by the restricted availability of land for fodder and pasture is an item of policy which is implemented in several ways, the chief of which is the improvement of the milk breed of cattle characteristic of Mauritius and the maintenance of an island-wide artificial insemination service.

Fisheries policy comprises conservation of the lagoon fisheries, development of off-shore fishing and investigation of pond culture of fresh-water fish.

The Board of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Natural resources studies matters of policy and makes recommendations.

Sugar

Mauritius is naturally best adapted for the production of sugar which is the main staple of the Island. The whole of the production, with the exception of some 20,000 tons consumed locally, is exported, mainly to the United Kingdom, but Canada is also an important buyer of Mauritian sugar.

In 1957 the production of sugar amounted to 561,606 metric tons obtained from an harvested area of about 176,800 acres. The average annual production of the preceding three years was 534,617 tons. The average yield of cane per acre over the whole Island was about 24.5 tons. Sugar extraction was 12.93 per cent, the same as the record extraction of 1956. The production of sugar per acre was approximately 3.18 tons, which is slightly less than the record figure of 3.23 tons per acre reached in 1956.

Although a considerable proportion of cane lands is under peasant ownership, mostly Indo-Mauritian, the bulk of the sugar is produced on the plantation scale. The larger estates with factories produced about 59 per cent of the total crop. The smaller peasant owners, some 15,000 of whom cultivate altogether about 19 per cent of the land under cane, often work their land with the assistance of their families, employing extraneous labour at peak times such as at planting and when harvesting. Many of these small planters have grouped themselves into co-operative societies for the purpose of consigning their cane to factories.

The cane is milled in 26 factories which, for the most part, are company-owned.

Cane is purchased by factories on the basis of two-thirds of the extraction going to the grower under contracts subject to the control of the Central Board, which functions as part of the organisation of the Department of Agriculture.

The whole of the sugar produced is marketed by the Mauritius Sugar Syndicate. Since the War the price of Commonwealth sugar has been fixed year by year under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement. The negotiated price quota exportable under the terms of the agreement was reduced to 335,000 long tons whilst the overall export quota is 490,530 long tons.

The Commonwealth Sugar Agreement has been extended for a further year and will now run to the end of 1964.

Exports of sugar for the calendar year 1957 were as follows:—

	<i>Long Tons</i>
U.K.	412,519
Canada	86,395
Japan	24,236
Malaya	2,250
Singapore	450
Hong Kong	12,585
Iran	19,387
Syria	9,000
Lebanon	1,000
Ceylon	7,678
TOTAL	575,500

Exports of molasses to the United Kingdom, the U.S.A. five other countries amounted to 60,234 metric tons. The production of alcohol in 1957 amounted to 1,726,775 litres (100° G.L.) against 1,732,249 in 1956. The greater part of that production was used locally as rum, denatured spirits and power alcohol, whilst 30,000 litres were exported to Hong Kong.

INDUSTRIAL CROPS

Three other crops are grown industrially, but on a small scale compared with sugar cane. These are tea, tobacco, and aloe fibre.

TEA

The Colony's total production of black tea for the year under review amounted to 1,893,752 English pounds, and 666 pounds of green tea were also produced. The black tea figure shows an increase of 355,459 pounds over that of the previous year. This is largely attributable to the maturing or coming into bearing of tea recently planted.

Exports, mainly to the United Kingdom, amounted to 969,214 pounds as against 335,365 pounds in 1956 and 387,167 pounds in 1955. The internal market is substantial and absorbed 924,538 pounds of tea.

With an average in bearing of 2,485 acres, the Colony's average yield per acre amounted to 761 pounds of made tea, compared with 647 pounds in 1956 and 665 pounds in 1955. Yields well in excess of 1,000 pounds per acre were recorded in respect of young tea in its fifth year. It is considered that heavy crops will, in due course, be recorded in respect of hedge-planted tea of approved

strains now being established. Of the total acreage under tea, 300 acres are under direct Government control whilst some 1,494 acres are owned by non-manufacturing planters and small holders, and small holders and about 1,491 acres are the property of manufacturing estates.

The manufacturing estates comprise five self-contained properties, of which the largest has 800 acres under tea. All five factories have been modernised in recent years.

The Government has encouraged the development of tea as a secondary industry during recent years and the Department of Agriculture has an administrative section with a small specialist staff. The Government has established a small experimental station of some 70 acres under tea and owns a plantation of about 200 acres in the Midlands Valley as well as seed gardens.

Towards the end of the year plans were completed for the establishment in the Midlands Valley of a Government Tea factory to be erected and run under contract by the Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Company Limited, which will also undertake the management of the Midlands estate with an option to take over on a long-term lease.

T O B A C C O

Tobacco was grown on 830 acres in 1957, an increase of 111 acres as compared with 1956; part of this area was under the variety Amarello, the remainder being under flue-cured Virginian varieties. Production, which was not affected by any factor of exceptional character, reached 438 metric tons.

Tobacco is entirely grown in small plots, for the most part by Indian peasant cultivators. A certain quantity of Virginian flue-cured leaf is imported for admixture with local leaf for the manufacture of the better type of cigarette. Cigarettes of lower grades are made entirely of local Amarello leaf: 3,981 kgs of air-cured Amarello (Burley) was exported in 1957.

The area annually grown is determined by the Tobacco Board, a statutory body, on which sit representatives of the various interests concerned. Closely connected with it is the Tobacco Warehouse which received, grades, processes, bales, stores and sells all the which receives, grades, processes, bales, stores and sells all the average Rs 4.90 per kilo of flue-cured Amarello and Rs 6.01 per kilo of Virginian flue-cured tobacco; air-cured leaf sold at Rs 2.47 per kilo.

F I B R E

Fibre is produced in Mauritius mainly from the *Furcraea Gigantea* plant, also known as "Mauritian Hemp" or "Aloe." It is a hard leaf fibre resembling sisal, which is also grown to some extent. *Furcraea* thrives mostly in wild growing plantations, mainly along the drier coastal belt. The yield of a wild plantation is roughly reckoned at $\frac{1}{2}$ ton of fibre per acre per year while that of a regular plantation is estimated at $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons.

The fibre is extracted from the leaves by scraping in decorticators. These decorticators are of different types, but the majority are now modified versions of the "Raspador." Although in the past leaf feeding to these machines was exclusively done by hand, mechanical feeding has been adopted in some cases as it dispenses with skilled labour, enables a greater output and produces a cleaner fibre. The green fibre obtained is washed and retted for 2 to 4 days, after which it is washed, sun dried, brushed and baled.

During the last few years fibre production averaged 2,000 tons a year, of which the greater part was absorbed by the Government Sack Factory for processing into bags for the transportation of sugar.

Twenty-two fibre factories were in operation in 1957. Production amounted to about 1,765 tons.

The Sack Factory, which has now been enlarged to produce 4,000,000 bags annually, absorbed 1,797 tons of brushed fibre, tow and cuttings for the production of 1,658,046 bags each weighing 955 grams (80 kgs. capacity), 15,467 yards of filter cloth, 15 tons of yarn for the manufacture of local ropes, 2,159 yards of sacking cloth and 3,572 yards of hessian.

In the past, brushed and unbrushed fibre were used at the Sack Factory but as a result of extensive experiments only brushed fibre, tow and cuttings are now processed, the cuttings being submitted separately to a special softening treatment before processing.

All the fibre produced in the Island is handled by the Mauritius Hemp Producers' Syndicate, which sorts, grades, stores and sells the fibre. For the Sack Factory the fibre is graded as "Very Good", or "Tow" and "Cuttings" and all fibre has to be brushed. Until recently the surplus fibre not absorbed by the Sack Factory found a ready market abroad, but owing to the fall in price of jute no overseas buyer has been found for Mauritius fibre for the last few years.

FOOD CROPS

Mauritius imports most of its food requirements. A certain amount of subsidiary foodstuffs and all the protective foods, mostly vegetables and fresh fruits, are locally produced.

Foodcrops were cultivated over an area of about 9,500 arpents (one arpent is equivalent to 1.043 acres) during the year. In view of the high monetary return per acre cultivation of potatoes would, it is considered, assume increasing importance if the problem of seed supply could be solved. Practical demonstrations of the use of fertilizers and of methods of crop protection have been carried out in various localities and the resultant improvements observed in crop yields suggest that they have met with a fair measure of success. A large number of demonstration plots on the use of fertilizers have been conducted and are being pursued. In the majority of cases the difference in favour of the use of a complete fertilizer treatment has been spectacular. Demonstrations are also made of the control of pests and diseases, and small farmers now begin to acquire their own sprayers which, when not in use, are hired out to others.

The agricultural equipment belonging to the former Food Production Board, which was transferred in 1954 to the Sugar Planters' Mechanical Agricultural Pool, an organisation formed to assist planters towards fuller mechanisation and maintained by funds obtained from the Sugar Industry Rehabilitation Fund established under the Sugar Industry Reserve Funds Ordinance (No. 3 of 1948), continued to be available to the Department of Agriculture for use on its experimental stations and development projects, as well as for the clearing of Crown lands leased for food-crop cultivation.

LIVESTOCK

The main livestock of the Colony consists of milk cattle and goats with a small number of sheep and some 5,500 pigs. In the course of 1956 a census of the cattle population was taken and the figures compared with those of the 1950 census are given below:

				1950	1956
Milk cattle :—					
Young animals	...	...	...	16,971	19,985
Cows	...	...	...	14,546	16,657
Bulls	...	...	...	626	1,487
TOTAL				32,143	38,039
Herd cattle	...	...	...	5,070	2,225
Draft cattle	...	...	...	3,069	1,904
TOTAL BOVINES				40,282	42,168

The goat population is subject to great fluctuations from year to year. It is estimated to be at present in the region of 50,000. The milk cattle population has increased from 1950 by just over 18 per cent. The herd and draft cattle has decreased largely as a result of greater mechanisation, especially in regard to the transport of sugar cane.

The livestock products are mostly milk and beef. The meat is supplied partly by cattle imported from Madagascar and partly—to the extent of some 7,000 head—from local sources. There is no record of the total milk production, but it may be estimated to lie between half and one gallon per cow per day. Total production is much below requirements and the difference to some extent is made up by imported dried milk. There is thus ample scope for increasing production and to this end the breeding and feeding programmes of the Department of Agriculture are directed. It should be possible eventually to double the milk production, probably by better management alone.

The programme for the improvement of cattle comprises selection within the “indigenous” breed of Creole cattle, which has shown to be capable of a milk yield under good conditions of management of 700 gallons per lactation. The selection of high-yielding cows for the foundation breeding stock and the improvement of the breeding centres and the artificial insemination centre continued.

The Department also maintains a few Ongole cattle, Dorsian sheep and Anglo-Nubian goats. These are used to produce males for sale to stock owners wishing to upgrade their animals.

Newcastle Disease vaccine for poultry is now produced at the Department of Agriculture and its continuous application has had great beneficial effects.

Water supply poses no problem, Mauritius being generally speaking a well-watered island almost throughout the year.

FISHERIES

The control of the Mauritius fisheries is exercised by a Fisheries Branch attached to the Department of Agriculture. This consists of a Fisheries Officer and an inspectorate of 59 inspectors and guards who are responsible for the enforcement of the laws regulating fisheries, the collection and establishment of statistics, and the study and implementation of all new measures which might be recommended for the better protection of the stock or to improve the efficiency of the industry or for the welfare of the fishing community.

The Department has given considerable attention to an aspect of production new to Mauritius, namely, the farming of fresh-water fish for the production of food rich in protein which is so markedly deficient in the diet of most classes of the population.

Fishing is practised in the lagoon surrounding most of the Island, which covers an area of about 95 square miles and off-shore on the shelf, to the 100 fathoms line, which is extensive in the northern part forming a bank of about 200 square miles with an average depth of 35 fathoms. About 1,800 fishermen with some 900 light fishing boats and a number of deep-sea pinnaces are engaged in fishing the 2,000 tons which form the average annual catch. An interesting trend is the larger number of pinnaces equipped with marine engines for off-shore fishing.

A number of lagoon fishermen have been equipping their light craft with $3\frac{1}{2}$ h.p. outboard motors.

These developments should eventually result in a greater supply of fish to the population and a more congenial occupation for the people engaged in the fishing industry.

Usually middlemen supply craft and gear to the fishermen who in return bring their catch at an agreed price. The middleman is expected to make advances during periods of forced idleness. It appears that an increasing number of fishermen are freeing themselves from debt.

The local catch is entirely consumed locally. The price varies with the abundance of fish; it is generally lower during the summer months when more fish is caught.

FORESTRY

Areas of different types of forest. The statement below gives particulars of different types of forest areas in Mauritius:

Crown Forest Estate

<i>A. Areas potentially productive</i>					<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Total area in acres</i>
(a)	Plantations of exotics	...	...	...	10,032	
(b)	Area suitable and available for economic forestry ;					
(i)	Mountain Reserves	...	...	...	3,140	
(ii)	National Reserves	...	...	...	2,994	
(iii)	Catchment areas	...	...	...	5,009	
(iv)	Other areas	...	...	...	12,589	
					<hr/> 33,764	
<i>B. Areas potentially unproductive</i>						
(i)	Mountain Reserves	...	...	...	14,843	
(ii)	National Reserves	...	...	...	1,220	
(iii)	Catchment areas	...	...	...	5,035	
					<hr/> 21,098	
<i>C. Areas leased and not available for forestry</i>					12,560	
					<hr/>	

67,422

*Leased Crown Lands in the Coastal belt of 250 (French) feet
(Pas Géométriques)*

	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Total area in acres</i>
(i) Tree Plantations (mainly <i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>)...	4,400	
(ii) Rocky grazing lands with trees	1,100	
	<hr/>	5,500

Privately owned forested lands

(i) Mountain Reserves	} Protected by law	... .. {	9,000	
(ii) River Reserves			6,500	
			<hr/>	15,500
(iii) Forest Lands	} Not protected by law	... .. {	5,800	
(iv) Scrub ..			93,900	
			<hr/>	99,700
			<hr/>	TOTAL = 120,700
			<hr/>	GRAND TOTAL = 188,122

Policy and methods of management

The Crown Forest Estate. The forest policy of the Government of Mauritius may be briefly summarised as follows:

- (i) to reserve in perpetuity sufficient land either already forested or capable of afforestation in order to safeguard and maintain water supplies, preserve the climatic and physical conditions of the Colony, prevent erosion and the silting up of reservoirs, provide forest produce for domestic, agricultural and industrial requirements and to maintain soil stability where the land is liable to deterioration if put to other uses;
- (ii) to manage this Forest Estate so as to obtain the best returns on its capital value and the expenses of management, in so far as such returns are consistent with the primary aims set out above;
- (iii) to set aside in perpetuity as 'National Reserves' suitable areas of the native forests of Mauritius and to preserve such areas in their natural state by controlling, and preventing if possible, the intrusion and establishment of other-than-native trees and plants;
- (iv) to encourage and assist the practice of sound forestry by private enterprise, and to educate selected Mauritians in technical forestry.

In regard to the Crown Forest Estate, it has not yet been found possible to undertake the essential preliminary operations upon which must be based a Working Plan for the forests of Mauritius

setting out the detailed manner in which the forests will be managed so that they may produce a sustained annual yield of produce in perpetuity and in conformity with the policy outlined above. Until the Working Plan is prepared and approved, all operations must be conducted on a year-to-year basis.

(c) *Organisation of the forestry industry.* The Forest Department is directly responsible for the management of the Crown Forest Estate; all silvicultural and exploitation operations within it are conducted by the Department which is directly exploiting, converting and selling all forest produce deriving from it. Privately owned forested lands other than those protected by law are managed by individual owners and in the course of the year under review many owners have undertaken quite extensive replanting operations. All forest produce deriving from exploitation operations is consumed locally.

Within privately-owned forested lands protected by law, i.e. Mountain and River Reserves, no felling or forestry operations of any kind may be carried out without the approval of the Government, such approval being given only in exceptional circumstances and as a general rule is restricted to the removal of dead and fallen timber.

(d) *Initial processing of timber, sawmills.* Felling and logging is carried out by means of the saw and the axe. The preference of the professional woodcutter for working on his own is very marked and the use of the axe, rather than saw and axe combined in felling—logging operations, preponderates and results in much avoidable waste. Several types of cross-cutting saw have been introduced and demonstrated but so far attempts to persuade woodcutters to work in teams have been unsuccessful. Timber is manhandled from stump to roadside and from there transported by lorries to sawmills, of which there are 56 in the Island, the majority inadequately powered.

(e) *Marketing of produce.* Timber from the Crown Forest Estate is sold either in the round or in converted form at the three Government Timber Stores at Port Louis, Rose Hill and Curepipe, managed by the Department. Fuel from the Crown Forest Estate is converted departmentally and sold in the forests to individual purchasers who remove it by lorry. A considerable quantity of fuel is converted into charcoal in the forests, the finished product being removed to and sold at Government Timber Stores.

Produce from private-owned forests is generally sold standing to dealers in timber, firewood and charcoal, but some owners conduct their own exploitation operations.

The retail prices of forest produce from the Crown Forest Estate are appreciably lower than those charged by private traders and sawmillers.

Forest Produce Exploited from Crown Forest Estate. The following tables give particulars of forest produce exploited on Crown Forest Lands during 1957.

							Cubic feet Log Volume
(a) Hardwoods :							
(i)	Eucalyptus	...	...	...	...	...	136,500.77
(ii)	Camphor (<i>Camphora Officinarum</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	708.69
(iii)	Tecoma (<i>Tabebuia pallida</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	3,915.40
(iv)	Filao (<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	2,108.05
(v)	Native species (<i>several</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	12,009.05
(vi)	Others	...	...	...	...	...	51,187.42
TOTAL HARDWOODS =							206,429.38
(b) Softwoods :							Cubic feet Log Volume
(i)	<i>Pinus taeda, caribea (coniferous) & sinensis spp.</i>	...	...	...	...	...	63,758.14
(ii)	<i>Juniperus Bedfordiana</i>	...	...	...	...	...	11,099.21
(iii)	<i>Cryptomeria Japonica</i>	...	...	...	...	...	36,634.98
(iv)	<i>Araucaria</i>	...	...	...	...	...	285.74
TOTAL SOFTWOODS =							111,778.07
GRAND TOTAL HARDWOODS AND SOFTWOODS =							318,207.45

(c) Firewood and charcoal. During 1957 22,868 'cordes' of firewood, each of 50 stacked cubic feet (equivalent to 1,143,400 cubic feet solid), together with 147,870 kgs of charcoal were produced in the Crown Forest Estate.

From privately-owned forests and leased Crown Lands

(i) *Timber.* An estimated volume of some 200,000 cubic feet of round timber, principally 'filao' and eucalyptus was produced (accurate figures are not available).

(ii) *Firewood and charcoal.* An estimated 5,717 'cordes' of firewood (285,850 cubic feet solid) and 800,000 kgs of charcoal were produced.

The Forest Department

The permanent establishment of the Department consists of 151 posts.

For the day-to-day conduct of forestry operations the Department employed during 1957 a labour force of approximately 850 labourers. These were employed at Forest Department Nurseries and at Government Timber Stores, and on silvicultural, exploitation and surveying operations, the cutting of timber and fuel and in the manufacture of charcoal.

Organization of the Department. The smallest administrative unit in the management of the Crown Forest Estate is the Forest Section, which is normally under the control of a Forester assisted by one or more Forest Guards. A number of Forest Sections constitute a Forest Range, administered by a Forest Range Officer with the assistance of one or more Deputy Forest Rangers. Two or more Forest Ranges constitute a Division, which is administered by a Divisional Forest Assistant under the general control of the Conservator of Forests. Two Assistant Conservators of Forests are employed on technical forestry operations, and the Deputy Conservator of Forests assists the Conservator of Forests in his administrative duties.

Labour Supply. In the purely silvicultural operations undertaken by the Department, the labour force employed is almost wholly Indo-Mauritian, but amongst the ranks of sawyers and wood-cutters employed on piece-work rates a high proportion of 'Creoles' continues to be employed. The percentage of 'Creoles' is increasing, however, in the ranks of nursery labourers and workers employed on silvicultural and allied operations.

Cyclones. No major cyclones traversed the Island during 1957.

Imports of timber. During 1957 a total of 636,786 cubic feet of converted timber (including 5,600 cubic feet of shingles) of a gross value of Rs 4,239,401 was imported into the Colony, mainly from Malaya, Siam and Australia. Imported timber is used mainly in building construction. There is a marked local prejudice in its favour owing to its superior finish.

Food Production. Damage by deer, pigs and monkeys in the upland forest zones restricts the application of the 'taungya' system to forest plantations within the lower and warmer elevations and the coastal belt.

Protection. The 4,520 acres of National Reserves continued to receive full attention. The experimental plots laid out in them to establish the best means of controlling exotics and at the same time foster the regeneration of native species are now showing gratifying results.

The experimental timber plantations created on the lower slopes of Signal Mountain were satisfactorily protected against fire. These plantations are surrounded by grass lands which are annually fired; no fires crossed into the rigidly protected areas.

No serious damage to Eucalyptus crops by the Curculionid beetle (*Gonipterus Scutellatus*) was reported.

Tea Cultivation. The cultivation of tea in Crown lands "Wooton" and "Midlands" was extended. The Forest Department assisted the Tea Officer in the initial clearance of the areas.

Silviculture. A total area of 758.86 acres was newly planted during the year, principally with: *Eucalyptus robusta*, *umbellata*, *citriodora* and *Hybrid*; *Pinus taeda* and *elliottii*; *D. Latifolia*; *Swietenia Mahogany*; *Cinnamomum Camphora*; *Araucaria Cookii*; *Agathis Robusta*. In addition some 3,896.92 acres of plantations of from 5-20 years of age were treated culturally under weeding, cleaning, thinning and pruning operations.

Output of forest produce

The statement below gives the estimated volume, in the round (log volume) of timber and forest produce produced or imported into Mauritius during 1957 and of other minor forest produce.

(i) Major Forest Produce (Timber) :

<i>(A) Local Production</i>				<i>Cubic ft. (solid)</i>
(a) Production from Crown Forests	...	...	...	318,207
(b) Production from unleased Pas Géométriques	...	...	...	1,000
(c) Production from privately owned Forests and leased Pas Géométriques	...	...	...	200,000
TOTAL				519,207
<hr/>				
(d) Imports from 1st January to 31st December 1957 (sawn timber 636,786 cubic feet)	...	...	...	1,273,572
GRAND TOTAL				1,792,779

(ii) Minor Forest Produce :

				<i>Cubic ft. (solid)</i>
(a) Firewood from Crown Forest Lands (stacked)				
cordes of 50 cubic feet	...	...	...	1,143,400
(b) Firewood from privately owned Forest Lands or leased Crown Lands estimated 5,717 stacked				
cordes of 50 cubic feet	...	...	...	285,850
TOTAL				1,429,250
<hr/>				
(c) Charcoal from Crown Forest Lands	...	...	...	Kgms. 147,870
(d) Charcoal from privately owned forested lands or leased Crown Lands	...	...	...	800,000
TOTAL				947,870

Revenue and Expenditure. During the year 1957 the Department was responsible for expenditure of Rs 2,140,073. The revenue derived by the Department from the sale of forest produce and shooting and fishing leases during the same period amounted to Rs 1,142,400.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

Apart from the sugar, tea, tobacco and fibre industries discussed above, local industries of lesser importance comprise the manufacture of rum and wine, oil and soap, cigarettes, matches, aerated beverages, dairy produce, salt, lime and bricks.

Various small trades, including printing, tanneries, mechanical and electrical workshops flourish in the Colony.

The possibilities of producing cement from sand and trachytes, and pulp and paper from *bagasse* have been investigated but the economics of these projects are still under consideration.

The Customs Tariff Ordinance provides for exemptions from import duty in respect of machinery and apparatus intended solely for use in factories for the manufacture or preparation of most of the commodities which are produced in the Colony, and the Income Tax Ordinance has been amended to include an "investment allowance" equal to one-tenth of the capital expenditure incurred on construction of buildings or provision of new plant for industrial purposes.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The co-operative movement in Mauritius and Rodrigues comprises the Department of Co-operation, four secondary societies consisting of the Mauritius Co-operative Union Ltd., the Mauritius Co-operative Agricultural Federation Ltd., the Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., the Mauritius Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd., and 333 primary societies, comprising 164 credit societies of unlimited liability, three credit societies of limited liability, 32 thrift and savings societies, 33 school savings banks, 74 co-operative retail stores, seven marketing societies, four housing societies, one printing society, fourteen transport societies and one better-living society. During the year thirteen societies were registered and the registration of eight societies was cancelled.

The Department of Co-operation is responsible for registration, audit, supervision, education in co-operative activities, arbitration and, when necessary, cancellation of registration. The main effort of the Department continued to be directed towards consolidation rather than expansion and to raising standards of management and bookkeeping, especially in the co-operative stores societies. Besides the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and Deputy, the staff included 10 field officers.

The Mauritius Co-operative Union Ltd. at the end of the year had a membership of 189 societies. Its objects among others are to promote co-operation, to bring together co-operative institutions

for a common endeavour, to assist with supervision and audit, to promote education in co-operative activities and to represent the movement. During the year the Union sold stationery to societies, arranged film shows and advised stores societies. Its field staff, consisting of a secretary-supervisor and eleven supervisors, were under the control of the Department of Co-operation and proved of great assistance. In 1957 the Union's revenue amounted to Rs 69,719 made up of audit fees and contributions of societies and a Government grant-in-aid of Rs 30,000 payable for five years from 1954. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies is *ex-officio* the President of the Union and of its Central and Executive Committees. The Deputy Registrar and two Co-operative Officers are *ex officio* members of the Union.

The Mauritius Agricultural Federation Ltd., with a membership of 133 societies, acts on behalf of its societies in agricultural matters and for this purpose retains the part-time services of a barrister and of a firm of Chartered Accountants. During the year the Federation assisted in the formation of cane planter transport societies and of tea marketing societies. The Federation is represented on a number of Government boards and committees. Its staff consists of a secretary and an assistant secretary.

The Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank Ltd. at the end of the year had a membership of 160 societies, a share capital of Rs 383,420, reserves of Rs 492,429 and deposits of Rs 2,282,458. Loans issued in 1957, at 8 per cent interest p.a., totalled Rs 3,654,764: loans overdue at the end of the year amounted to Rs 70,000. Loans to member societies, consisting mainly of cane growers, are secured by a lien on the societies' sugar, all of which is sold through the Bank's Secretary-Manager, who is also the Bank's broker.

The Mauritius Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd., with 74 member societies, had a turnover for the year ended 31st December, 1957, of Rs 3,827,909. The society's share capital was Rs 112,473 and reserves amounted to Rs 73,707. Both the society and its member retail stores benefited from the increased volume of direct imports from overseas.

Credit Societies of Unlimited Liability

At the end of the year there were 144 credit societies of unlimited liability in Mauritius and 20 in Rodrigues, with a total of 9,488 members. The majority of the members of the Mauritius societies are cane growers, while those of the Rodrigues societies are mainly engaged in subsistence farming. In 1957 loans of Mauritius

societies to members totalled Rs 4,895,241 and were secured by sureties and a lien on the crop. Payments to members for cane marketed through the agency of their societies amounted to Rs 12½ million. The deposits of members amounted to Rs 174,795 as compared with Rs 207,856 for the year 1956. Share Capital and Reserve Funds of the societies were Rs 479,499 and Rs 1,086,569 respectively.

Credit Societies of Limited Liability

The three credit societies of limited liability, whose 68 members are fishermen, issued loans totalling Rs 2,820 during the year. The co-operative marketing of fish caught in the large 'seine' acquired by one of the societies had some success.

Thrift and Savings Societies

There were 32 thrift and savings societies at the end of 1957, with a membership of 2,372 and savings of Rs 499,768. The two societies of salary earners, with deductions for savings at source, were successful. In the remaining societies, which are in the rural areas, deduction at source was not possible and except in a few cases savings were poor.

School Savings Banks

One school savings bank was registered in 1957, bringing the total to 33 with a total membership of 5,608. By the end of the year savings amounted to Rs 61,785 as compared with Rs 50,930 in 1956. The banks are popular with parents and children and receive good support from teachers. The Co-operative Union supplies books free of charge from its Education Fund and, as a special concession to help the banks build up funds for communal activities, the Co-operative Central Bank pays interest at 3½ per cent on their deposits.

Co-operative Retail Stores

At the end of 1957 there were 74 co-operative retail stores with a membership of 12,667 and a turnover of Rs 5,935,121. The majority of societies operated successfully, but a few suffered losses through defalcations, bad management and excessive credit sales. In addition to the usual bad debts reserve, all societies are building up, by allocation of surplus, what is termed a mutual aid fund. Once the fund reaches the required level the by-laws are amended to allow credit sales up to the amount of the fund on the basis of a maximum credit limit for each member. In this way the fund serves as a buffer against losses on credit sales and makes up for capital tied up in debts,

Marketing Societies

The Crève Coeur Co-operative Ginger Marketing Society Ltd. continued to experience difficulty in disposing of members' ginger to local dealers. Nevertheless the sale of green ginger more than doubled as compared with last year's.

The six tea marketing societies registered last year entered into contract with tea factories for the sale of their members' tea leaves.

Housing Societies

There are four housing societies with a total membership of 239, share capital of Rs 5,680 and deposits of Rs 17,607. At present the societies are financed by a Government loan. The societies have lent Rs 183,957 to members for the building of houses.

Printing Society

The co-operative printing society with 837 members, a share capital of Rs 28,144 and a printing press in Port Louis carried out Rs 34,000 worth of printing business during the year and made the most of its old equipment.

Transport Societies

The number of co-operative transport societies increased from 11 to 14 and membership from 508 to 609. Paid-up shares on the 31st December, 1957, amounted to Rs 157,995. About 32,000 tons of sugar cane were transported from fields to factories during the 1957 crop. Expenditure of a capital nature by these societies is reimbursed from the Sugar Planters Rehabilitation Fund.

Better Living Society

One co-operative better-living society with 65 members is operating in Long Mountain. It has a kindergarten school for about 50 four-year old children. The kindergarten school is assisted by a small grant from the Village Council.

Educational Activities

Two courses of a week each were held for officials of co-operative credit societies. The junior staff continued voluntarily to take correspondence courses in book keeping and other subjects of the Co-operative College, Loughborough and two of them successfully sat for the book-keeping examinations. The Co-operative Union showed films on co-operative subjects throughout Mauritius and held classes for salesmen of stores societies.

Audit

The accounts of all societies were audited. Except in the case of three secondary societies and the printing society, which employed professional or approved auditors, the audits were carried out by the staff of the Department of Co-operation and of the Mauritius Co-operative Union Ltd. In addition to the annual statutory audit, interim audits were carried out during the year.

Arbitrations

A large number of arbitration awards were made against members of stores societies who failed to pay for goods purchased on credit. Some awards were also made against members of credit societies who failed to repay their loans. Where necessary the awards were referred for execution to the attorney of the Mauritius Co-operative Union Ltd. The co-operative movement was fortunate in obtaining the honorary services as arbitrators of a retired civil servant, two retired teachers and a barrister, all active members of the movement.

T A B L E

The following table gives an indication of progress made over three years:—

		1955	1956	1957
Total Societies ...		293	332	337
Total Members ...		28,424	31,252	33,065
Total Turnover ...	Rs	33,691,453*	33,843,164*	38,521,400*
Share Capital ...	Rs	1,161,096	1,324,656	1,463,200
Reserve Funds ...	Rs	1,394,248	1,694,908	2,077,593
Other Funds ...	Rs	162,508	215,184	329,738
Government loans				
to Societies ...	Rs	32,065	137,120	246,030
Total Assets ...	Rs	8,937,693	9,534,639*	10,767,446*

*For the year ended 28th February, 1957.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

Organization

The Education Department is the biggest of the departments which form the administrative machinery of the Government of Mauritius. It has seven divisions and a staff of about 3,000. The headquarters staff consists of a Director, a Deputy Director, two Assistant Directors, a number of Organizers, and clerical staff. The Department's headquarters are at Rose Hill where the staff of the Visual Education Branch, the School Health Service and the Primary Schools Inspectorate are also housed. The other senior members of the staff at Assistant Director level are the Principals of the three Government secondary schools and of the Teachers' Training College.

The Director is assisted by a number of advisory committees, of which the most important is the Education Committee.

Educational Facilities

On the 31st October, 1957, there were 175 Government or aided primary schools providing free education to 88,477 pupils. The 77 aided schools are managed by four Education Authorities: Roman Catholic (53 schools), Church of England (17 schools), Hindu (5 schools) and Muslim (two schools). There were, in addition, 152 other schools registered with the Department with a roll of 13,814 children. This number, which includes the children in the primary sections of the secondary schools, brings the total number of children receiving primary education in 1957 to 102,291 as compared with 89,434 in the previous year. Of this total 57,424 were boys and 44,867 girls.

Teachers in aided schools are paid by the Department and are appointed, transferred and promoted by the Director on the recommendation of the Authority concerned. In 1952 each Education Authority set up an Appointments and Promotions Board, consisting of three representatives of the Authority and two of the Education Department, to settle questions of teachers' appointment and promotion. A primary Schools Promotion Board was set up at the same time for teachers in Government service. The final selection is now made after consultation with the Public Service Commission.

In primary education the English pattern is followed, generally speaking, subject to adjustments to meet local conditions. Primary education is free and includes the issue of basic text books without charge.

A total of 128 Government scholarships are available on a competitive basis, 75 for boys and 53 for girls. These scholarships, which provide free secondary education, free travelling, text books on favourable terms and a small money grant, are tenable at either Government or aided secondary schools.

Secondary education is almost exclusively of the grammar school type, leading to University courses. Government schools can meet only part of the demand and since 1951 the Department has been subsidizing a number of private schools which can offer satisfactory guarantees of proper schooling up to School Certificate or Higher School Certificate level. There were, on the 31st October 1,152 pupils in the three Government secondary schools, 2,256 in the subsidized schools known in Mauritius as " approved secondary schools ", and 9,198 in the unaided secondary schools. This total of 12,606 secondary pupils was made up of 8,518 boys and 4,088 girls. The 69 secondary schools comprised 3 government, 8 approved and 58 other schools.

Apart from the College of Agriculture, there are no institutions in the Colony which can provide full-time post-secondary education, and students wishing to follow University and other post-secondary courses have to go overseas. There were about 400 students following courses in institutions of higher education in the United Kingdom, Eire, and on the Continent.

There is a Teachers' Training College at Beau Bassin, through which all those seeking permanent service in the Government and aided primary schools must pass. The normal course is of two years' duration, but this has had to be supplemented by short courses of six months' duration to meet the demand for new teachers. During the year, 492 students were in training, including 227 long course (158 men and 69 women), 253 short course (192 men and 61 women) and 12 teachers following a year's in-service training in handicrafts.

The greatest problem which confronts the Department is the increasing number of children of school-going age and the consequential rising demand for school places. Policy has necessarily been influenced both by this pressing demand for more school places and by the need for instruction in practical forms of education. There is an urgent need for more schools and more teachers and steps are being taken to meet the situation within the limits of the country's resources.

Twelve primary schools were opened in 1957. The Roman Catholic and Church of England Education Authorities also pursued

their school rebuilding schemes which receive Government aid on the basis of a two-thirds grant of the capital expenditure incurred by the Authority or of the additional rent payable by the Authority to landlords. The amount of capital grant-in-aid involved has averaged Rs 360,156 in recent years. Fully equipped handicraft centres have now been provided in 48 Government and aided primary schools, at the two Government secondary schools for boys and at the Training College which has two centres.

A new building for the Royal College School (badly housed for many years) at Cassis on the outskirts of the Capital, and an extension to the Royal College to enable a three-stream annual entry, were under construction in 1957. Though the second phase of the building scheme of Queen Elizabeth College was completed in 1957, the College was short of a hall and gymnasium.

School Health Service

The School Health Service falls into two divisions: medical and dental. The staff comprises two School Medical Officers (one part-time), three nurses, four dentists with one clinical and clerical assistant each, and one Nutrition and Health Assistant.

Entrants into all Government and aided primary schools and into Government secondary schools are medically examined. Free medical treatment is provided for primary school pupils.

The school nurses carry out cleanliness and health surveys (including distance vision testing) in the primary schools. Free treatment is provided for head infestation.

The medical staff is helped by the Nutrition and Health Assistant, who is an officer of the Education Department. The latter's duties consist in giving talks on nutrition to senior pupils in primary schools and to mothers of schoolchildren, in weighing and measuring pupils, and in rendering assistance in connection with the School Milk Scheme, whereby all primary schoolchildren are eligible for a free ration of 200 ccs of skimmed milk mixture at school daily. In addition, yeast tablets and supplements of Vitamins A and D in the form of cod liver oil or halibut oil capsules are issued to those requiring them.

A Mobile School Clinic fully equipped for medical, cleansing and nutrition work visits all the primary schools.

The dental service treats primary school pupils only. Pupils of schools in the urban areas are treated at the hospitals while schools in rural areas are visited by two Mobile Dental Clinics. Teeth-cleaning drills are held regularly at school. Toothbrushes at a subsidised price are available for sale to pupils at primary schools.

Handicrafts

Increasing emphasis is placed on the teaching of handicrafts in Government and aided primary schools and in the Government secondary schools.

In 1957 ten new handicraft centres were opened in primary schools, bringing the total to forty-eight.

Bookcraft is taught to children of Standards IV to VI and woodwork and metal work to boys of Standard VI. A four-year course in needlework for girls is now in force in all schools, and at certain schools basketry is also taught to them.

School Broadcasts

The weekly programmes intended for the 76 Government and aided primary schools which were equipped with radio sets included the following regular items: weekly news, readings from the prescribed English language text books and the B.B.C. 'Listen and Write' series.

A Schools Broadcasting Officer assumed duty in February, 1957, and began to study existing conditions.

Visual Education

The activities of the Visual Aids section include the drawing up of weekly filmshow programmes for the Government and aided primary schools, giving previews of the films to the teachers on Saturdays, going round the Government and aided primary schools to show the films and distributing visual aids, materials (filmstrips, picture sets, photographs) to those schools. The outstanding feature of the year's programme was the projection of the 16mm film of H.R.H. Princess Margaret's visit to Mauritius which was produced by the Visual Education Organizer.

Further Education

Post-primary continuation classes were organized at 26 centres with a total enrolment of 545 pupils.

Post-secondary continuation classes provide instruction on a fee-paying basis in commercial subjects (with a view to those enrolled taking the London Chamber of Commerce examinations) and also in art, bookbinding, woodwork and weaving. Attendance at these classes was much more regular than at the post-primary classes.

Science extension classes provide laboratory facilities for students reading for the G.C.E., Intermediate and Final B.Sc. examinations, and for local examinations in Pharmacy. The

subjects studied are Physics, Chemistry and Biology. In 1957 165 students followed a practical course in one or other of these subjects.

Youth Organisations

Special emphasis has been placed on the expansion of the youth movement in the rural areas during the year. There are now four elected regional committees of representatives from the clubs and organisations in each region. Four Youth Officers from the Education Department have been seconded to work in the rural areas to help these committees to develop the Association of Clubs and to broaden the scope of club activities.

The total number of clubs and organisations has shown a marked increase and there are now 550 affiliated to Youth House and the rural associations with a membership of 18,500.

Mauritius continued its affiliation to W.A.Y. (World Assembly of Youth) and is represented on the Executive Committee of W.A.Y. by the President of the Youth Council.

A representative from Mauritius travelled to Lebanon to attend the Second Rural Youth Conference organised by W.A.Y.

Expenditure

Expenditure on education during the financial year 1956-57 amounted to Rs 18,456,159, excluding Rs 637,434 spent by the Agricultural, Health and Prisons Departments on education services under their control. This brings the total ascertainable Government expenditure on education to Rs 19,093,593 out of total Government expenditure of Rs 132,202,664.51.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The medical services are administered by a Director of Medical Services, assisted by two deputies. They are organised into nine divisions and form one of the largest departments of Government. The health services have appreciably expanded in recent years and provision is made in the Capital Expenditure Programme 1955-1960 for a further degree of expansion and development.

The functions of the Medical and Health Department are:

- (a) to investigate the influence of social environmental and domestic factors on the incidence of human disease and disability;
- (b) to plan and carry out measures for the promotion of health;

- (c) to institute and maintain measures for the prevention of disease;
- (d) to provide a quarantine service to prevent the introduction of infectious diseases by sea or air;
- (e) to provide facilities for treatment of disease, including mental disease, by maintenance of hospital and dispensary services;
- (f) to make provision for the rehabilitation of the disabled;
- (g) to control the practice of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy;
- (h) to provide facilities for the training of nurses, midwives, sanitary officers;
- (i) to advise local authorities regarding their health services and to inspect those services;
- (j) to prepare and publish reports and statistical or other information relating to health.

General Health

The improvement in health conditions during the past few years as demonstrated by the following statistical figures, is one of the most notable features in the recent history of the Colony.

The figures were affected in 1957 by an outbreak of Asian 'flu.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Birth rate per ‰</i>	<i>Death rate per ‰</i>	<i>Infant Mortality rate per ‰</i>	<i>Maternal Mortality rate per ‰</i>
1938 ...	33·4	29·9	162·5	11·38
1943 ...	33·1	25·9	141·5	5·14
1950 ...	49·7	13·9	76·3	3·51
1955 ...	41·8	12·9	67·2	1·47
1956 ...	43·8	11·8	66·0	2·13
1957 ...	43·1	13·0	75·1	2·84

The main factors responsible for bringing about such striking improvements have been the progressive elimination of malaria as a result of an island-wide campaign, the higher standard of environmental hygiene, the absence of severe cyclones and drought during the past eleven years and the relative economic prosperity of the Island.

Malaria

Malaria, which up to 1945 occupied the first place amongst causes of mortality, has now ceased to be a public health problem and the figures shown below indicate the remarkable fall in the death rate due to malaria:

<i>Year</i>		<i>Deaths ascribed to malaria</i>	<i>Rate per 1000 population</i>	<i>Percentage of deaths due to malaria to total deaths</i>
1945	...	3,534	8.34	23.13
1948	...	1,580	3.58	15.02
1951	...	285	0.59	3.95
1952	...	188	0.37	2.52
1953	...	61	0.12	0.73
1954	...	27	0.05	0.32
1955	...	3	0.00	0.04
1956	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
1957	...	Nil	Nil	Nil

A reduction which appears just as spectacular is evident from the returns furnished by the hospitals of the Colony:

<i>Year</i>		<i>Cases of malaria treated in hospitals</i>	<i>Deaths in hospitals</i>
1945	...	3,244	148
1948	...	1,576	66
1951	...	98	4
1952	...	3	Nil
1953	...	Nil	Nil
1954	...	3	Nil
1955	...	1	Nil
1956	...	3	Nil
1957	...	4	Nil

Infective and Parasitic Diseases

There has equally been a steady decline in the number of deaths caused by the group of infective and parasitic diseases; from 4,052 in 1948 and 1,603 in 1949, the death figures fell to 863 in 1951, 665 in 1954, 311 in 1955 and showed a slight increase to 354 in 1956 and to 416 in 1957.

Enteric Fever

Another noteworthy feature is the reduction in the incidence of enteric fever: the incidence rate which was 1.47 per 1,000 of the population in 1946 came down to 0.67 in 1951, 0.16 in 1954, 0.12 in 1955. It rose to 0.26 in 1956 on account of a small localized outbreak in the South of the Island, but came down again to 0.13 per 1,000 of the population in 1957.

Mortality Rates

Mortality from the principal groups of diseases is hereunder summarised:

<i>Group</i>	<i>Number of deaths</i>	<i>Rate per 0/00 population</i>
(a) Infective and parasitic diseases	416	0·7
(b) Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs ...	377	0·7
(c) Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	431	0·7
(d) Diseases of the circulatory system	622	1·1
(e) Diseases of the respiratory system	1,132	1·9
(f) Diseases of the digestive system	1,007	1·7
(g) Certain diseases of early infancy	881	1·5

Institutional Facilities

The institutional facilities which were available in 1957 are tabulated hereunder:

<i>(a) Government Institutions</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Beds</i>
1. General Hospitals	8	1,202
2. Dispensaries (including 2 in the prisons)	48	—
3. Specialized Units :—		
(a) Maternity and Child Welfare Centres	9	—
(b) Maternity wards in hospitals	8	—
(c) Leprosarium	1	62
(d) Mental Hospital	1	707
(e) Orthopaedic Hospital	1	157
(f) Prisons Hospitals	2	46
4. Mobile Units :—		
(a) Dispensaries	4	units
(b) Ante-natal Clinic	1	unit
(c) Dental clinic	2	units
<i>(b) Private Institutions</i>		
1. Sugar estates' hospitals	33	738
2. Sugar estates' dispensaries	8	—
3. Nursing Homes	5	53

There are 37 dispensaries in the rural areas. In addition a Mobile Dispensary service comprising four units caters for the needs of scattered villages and hamlets where it would be uneconomic to provide a static out-patient service.

There are 17 maternity and infant welfare centres, and regular clinics are held at each of these. This service is supplemented by a mobile unit which visits a large number of localities in the rural districts.

Medical and Health Staff

	<i>Government</i>	<i>Private</i>
1. Registered Medical Practitioners	60	61
2. Dentists	4	25
3. Pharmacists	2	45
4. Nurses of senior training	10	—
Nurses in hospitals	176	—
Dressers in hospitals	217	—
5. Midwives (all categories)	64	—
6. Sanitary Inspectors	59	—
7. X-Ray Specialists	2	—
X-Ray Technicians	5	—

Expenditure on Health Services

Government expenditure on medical and health services in the financial year 1956-57 was Rs 11,045,710, or 10.09 per cent of the Colony's total expenditure for the year. This represents Rs 19.07 per head of the estimated population at the 31st December, 1956.

BUILDING AND PLANNING

Architecture

This year again building activity has been intense, carried out for the most part in reinforced concrete and concrete block construction. More buildings are being constructed to the designs of architects and this is reflected in the pleasant and colourful appearance of a number of new buildings.

Town Planning

Although the Town and Country Planning Ordinance (No. 6 of 1954) is in force, no general planning system has been enforced for lack of technical staff but leases of Crown land conform to accepted planning principles.

Building Construction

Continued use is being made of a number of new materials. Colour effects have been obtained by the use of coloured cements and concretes and by the increased use of emulsion paints.

Shade tiles have been used with success to reduce the heat transmitted by concrete roofs.

The most notable new material introduced during the year has been the movable glass louvre set in an aluminium frame, which is being extensively used.

Building Works

The most notable commercial building completed during the course of the year has been that for the Agricultural Bank in Port Louis, a framed structure of five floors. Together with the Sugar Syndicate building near by, of similar height and construction, it is helping to change the Port Louis street scene.

In the centre of Curepipe, the building of multi-storey flats above shops has continued; one high building remarkable for a wall of vertical aluminium shutters on the first floor has already established itself as the most prominent landmark of the town.

Government Buildings

During the year a start has been made in building a new sixty-bed hospital at Port Mathurin in Rodrigues in "Arcon Structures."

The first part of the Royal College School in Port Louis has been completed at Cassis, including a three-floored classroom block workshops and Art rooms.

The Bacteriological Laboratory at Candos was well advanced by the end of the year, and will form with the Nurses' Home a part of the forecourt of the Princess Margaret Orthopaedic Centre.

Some forty-five new schools and school extensions were completed during the year, together with a number of houses of various kinds.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Outdoor Relief

The basic organisation for the registration, investigation and adjudication of applications for outdoor relief remained the same in 1957 as in 1956.

New applications received in 1957 amounted to 15,533, of which 10,616 were approved, while 7,659 allowances were withdrawn from the Registrar during the year. The total number of cases on roll at 31st December, 1957, was 15,231 as compared with 12,274 at the end of the preceding year.

The basic scale rates introduced in 1953 are still in force, but generous discretionary additions are made in cases of prolonged illness where a special diet is recommended.

The total amount disbursed on outdoor relief in 1957 was Rs 3,709,941, the average monthly payment being Rs 20.76 as against Rs 20.58 for 1956.

Relief in kind

The number and cost of blankets and flannel under-garments distributed to needy recipients of outdoor relief during the winter season in 1957, as compared with 1956, are as under:

<i>Year</i>		<i>Blankets</i>	<i>Flannels</i>	<i>Total cost</i>
		<i>Units</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
1956	...	4,312	2,421	46,106
1957	...	4,462	2,589	50,509

In addition to these comforts, 308 pairs of spectacles to the value of Rs 4,852 were also issued to recipients of outdoor relief and to Old Age pensioners in 1957 on the recommendation of the eye specialist.

Workrooms

The Public Assistance Department laundry was closed in January, 1957, but work in lieu of relief continued to be provided in the workrooms throughout the year to 47 persons, mostly widows with large families. Their total earnings for the year on a piece-rate basis amounted to Rs 45,713.93 as follows:

				<i>Rs.</i>
Lingerie (out-workers)	...	...	...	8,594 40
Sergerie and Uniforms (in-workers)	...			37,119 53
				<hr/>
TOTAL	...			45,713 93
				<hr/>

The average monthly earning was therefore Rs 81.05 per relief worker.

Indoor Relief

There was no addition in 1957 to the number of institutions providing indoor treatment.

The number of inmates in the infirmaries and orphanages at the end of 1957, including harmless mental patients transferred from the Mental Hospital, was as under:

		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Infirm	...	398	256	654
Orphans	...	85	97	182

as compared with 630 infirms and 206 orphans at the end of the preceding year.

The capitation grant amounts to Rs 1.10 per day for both adults and children. The additional Christmas and New Year grant of Rs 2 per inmate was paid as usual in 1957.

A programme of outings to the seaside was arranged for the inmates of all infirmaries and orphanages in 1957 and these outings were much appreciated. The Youth Organisation also invited some 65 orphans from Public Assistance institutions to join the Schools Holiday Camp at Cannoniers Point for a week, thereby affording them an opportunity to mix with other children and participate in outdoor games and other activities during that period.

Frequent visits were paid in 1957 to the various institutions by members of voluntary organisations who distributed sweets and cigarettes to inmates and provided them with musical and other entertainment.

Old Age Pensions

The maximum rate of pension is Rs 20 per month.

The number of new applications received in 1957 amounted to 3,816, of which 3,441 were granted, while 2,691 allowances were removed from the Register during the year. At the 31st December, 1957, there were 19,842 current Old Age pensions as compared with 20,016 at the end of 1956. The total disbursements on these pensions in 1957 amounted to Rs 4,716,430, the average monthly pension for December, 1957, being Rs 19.80 as against corresponding figures of Rs 4,452,487 and 17.95 for 1956.

Repatriation

Expenditure of Rs 3,104.43 was incurred in 1957 on the repatriation of 17 destitute Mauritians from abroad and aliens from the Colony. In 11 of these cases the expenses, totalling Rs 715, are non-recoverable.

The number of repatriates on record at the end of 1957 was 29, and repayments amounting to Rs 7,853.69 were affected by 16 liable parties during the year.

Relief to destitute Mauritians abroad

During the year there were nine persons in receipt of "hard core" relief. The actual expenditure on this account from all sources is not yet known, but the total commitment is approximately Rs 8,260 per annum.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Departmental Organisation

The Social Welfare Department was created in July, 1953. Before this date Social Welfare was the responsibility of a special branch of the Public Assistance Department, while the Probation Service was under the charge of the Judicial Department. The Department works in close co-operation with other Government departments and voluntary bodies engaged in social welfare activities.

Social Welfare Centres

The twelfth centre was inaugurated in April, 1957. These centres play an important part in the development of community activities and in the general social education of the people in the rural areas. A maternity and child welfare service including pre-natal and post-natal care to mothers and the provision of milk to babies constitutes one major activity at the centres. Doctors paid by the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee have been performing all medical work at the centres. The Director of Medical Services posted two midwives to each of two other centres according to his rural midwifery scheme. The midwifery service at the other centres is still being run by the Social Welfare Department, with funds provided largely by the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee under the technical supervision of the Medical Department.

Social welfare centres are the focal point for afternoon and evening activities in every village where these exist. Indoor games, sports and listening to the radio are the main activities. In some centres there are formal literary classes, with debates and lectures from time to time. Film shows by mobile units are a regular feature at each centre.

Agricultural demonstration plots have been set up in some Social Welfare Centres. The aim is to teach to the local farmers how production could be increased by the adoption of modern methods of cultivation. The local vegetable growers are also encouraged to organise themselves into Farmers' Clubs.

The needlework and dressmaking classes held in each centre for the benefit of the local girls are very popular.

To ensure co-ordination, conferences of chairmen of local committees are held from time to time under the chairmanship of the Social Welfare Commissioner,

Welfare Months

To stimulate community activities the holding of welfare months at social welfare centres has been found to be a successful technique. During the month chosen, besides a health exhibition at the centre, officers of departments such as Agriculture, Health, Education and Social Welfare give lectures and demonstrations to the people, drawing their attention to the problems of the village and suggesting solutions. The contribution of the local womens associations, boys' clubs, co-operative societies and other welfare organisations is generally very substantial during the welfare month.

Women's Welfare

The development of women's associations is being encouraged, especially in the rural areas. The aim of these associations is to bring the women together to learn things which will be of help in their homes, to improve conditions in the village, to consider the needs of the villagers and to develop a spirit of friendliness, co-operation and initiative. There were 43 such associations registered at the Social Welfare Department at the end of 1957.

Most of the associations run a sewing class for the benefit of the girls of the village and there is also a fortnightly or monthly sewing class held by a dressmaker employed by the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee. In some places a handicraft class is held.

The Mauritius Women's Institute which was set up in 1955 has continued the good work begun in that year. This organisation consists of ladies from all the communities of the Island. Its members pay regular visits to social welfare centres giving talks, demonstrations and sometimes holding sewing classes. In some localities painting classes were held.

The exhibition held in February and organised by the women's associations with the help of the Women's Institute and the Social Welfare Department was a success.

Voluntary Workers' Conference

The Social Welfare Department organises from time to time conferences of voluntary workers to discuss ways and means of developing the rural areas and raising the standard of living of the inhabitants.

Treatment of Offenders

The probation system introduced in the Island in 1946 has made satisfactory progress. Probation applies to both juveniles and adults and it is worthy of note that more adults than juveniles pass through the hands of Probation Officers. A certain amount of social work connected with the courts (e.g., settling of matrimonial disputes, handling of difficult children, etc.) is also undertaken by Probation Officers, many of whom have been trained in the United Kingdom.

The Probation Service pays particular attention to the prevention of delinquency. To occupy the leisure time of youths in villages, Probation Officers now urge them to make use of the available facilities in social welfare centres.

Probationers are now required to report to Probation Officers in social welfare centres, wherever these exist, instead of going to the Court. In a welfare centre the Probation Officer can spend more time with the individual delinquent child and is in a better position to plan rehabilitation measures.

The first probation hostel for boys was opened in May, 1954. It is non-denominational and it is managed by a representative Committee. It can accommodate fifteen boys, and the number of probationers was up to fifteen in 1957. These boys are regularly employed outside the hostel and half of their earnings goes towards their keep. Voluntary workers help the management with regard to the education and health of the inmates.

In the field of after-care Probation Officers help with the rehabilitation of juveniles released from the Industrial School and from Borstal.

Chapter 8 : Legislation

Forty-six Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council and assented to by the Governor during the year 1957.

The Pensions (Attachment) Ordinance, 1957 (No. 2 of 1957)

This Ordinance provides that pensions granted under Ordinance No. 30 of 1881 shall not be attached, sequestered or levied except for debts due to the Government.

The Employees Superannuation Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 1957 (No. 3 of 1957)

This Ordinance provides that death duties payable under a Superannuation Fund shall be exempt from succession duty.

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 1957 (No. 5 of 1957)

This Ordinance gives effect to the "Convention concerning Customs Facilities for Touring" adopted by the United Nations Conference on the 4th June, 1954, at New York which aims at removing Customs procedure which might have the effect of impeding the development of international touring.

The Sugar Industry Pension Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 1957 (No. 15 of 1957)

This Ordinance provides that the payment or transfer of monies to the Fund and the payment of any death benefit to the personal representative of a deceased member shall be exempt from tax and duties.

The Consolidated Sinking Fund Ordinance, 1957 (No. 17 of 1957)

This Ordinance establishes a Consolidated Sinking Fund which will provide for the redemption of all loans raised in the Colony by the Government in future.

The Tax Reserve Certificates Ordinance, 1957 (No. 18 of 1957)

This Ordinance enables the Governor to issue Tax Reserve Certificates to be purchased from the Government in anticipation of liability to income tax and surrendered in satisfaction of that

liability when it falls due. In the period between purchase and surrender the certificates will earn interest free for a period not exceeding three years.

The Mauritius Currency Notes (Amendment) Ordinance, 1957
(No. 21 of 1957)

This Ordinance provides that some of the backing of Mauritius currency notes may be invested in local securities issued or guaranteed by the Government of the Colony.

The Local Loans Ordinance, 1957
(No. 22 of 1957)

This Ordinance establishes a basic method of raising and administering loans to be raised by the Government in the Colony. The amount and purpose of each loan remain subject to the specific approval of the Legislature but the Government, *per se*, has general power to raise loans not exceeding Rs 5 million in each financial year.

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance, 1957
(No. 25 of 1957)

Part I of this Ordinance reproduces *mutatis mutandis* the main provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 26) and of the United Kingdom Protection of Animals Act, 1911. Part II ensures that experiments on living animals shall be carried out only under certain conditions and with the least possible harm or cruelty to them. These provisions are similar to those of the United Kingdom Cruelty to Animals Act, 1876.

The Board of Agriculture, Fisheries and Natural Resources Ordinance, 1957
(No. 29 of 1957)

This Ordinance reconstitutes the above-mentioned Board which was unduly large for effective operation. The Board is now appointed by and made advisory to the Minister of Agriculture and Lands.

The Sack Factory (Amendment) Ordinance, 1957
(No. 32 of 1957)

This Ordinance provides that as the 1st January, 1957, the debt owed by the Sack Factory to the Government shall be paid by annual contributions to a Sinking Fund over a period of thirty years and that the Depreciation Fund of the Board shall be wound up.

The "La Clinique Mauricienne" Ordinance, 1957
(No. 36 of 1957)

This Ordinance gives legal status as a corporate body to the foundation. The purpose of such foundation is to provide surgical intervention in the case of those persons who through lack of means cannot afford to pay the fees charged by existing clinics.

The Education Ordinance, 1957
(No. 39 of 1957)

This Ordinance amends and consolidates the law relating to education. Certain modifications have been made to anterior legislation with a view to promote education in the Colony and to that end suitable provisions are embodied in accordance with existing conditions and present-day educational thought and practice.

The Law Officers Ordinance, 1957
(No. 40 of 1957)

This Ordinance amends and consolidates the law relating to the Law Officers of the Crown. The reorganisation of the Crown Law Office had become necessary for the more efficient running of the Department, on which an increasing volume of work is now steadily devolving. The designations of the Law Officers of the Crown have been altered so as to be more in keeping with the functions of the officers and following the pattern of other colonial territories.

The following enactments relate to the institution of the ministerial system in the Colony:—

The Legislative Council (Removal of Disqualification) Ordinance, 1957
(No. 10 of 1957)

This Ordinance provides that a Minister shall not be deemed to hold office of emolument under the Crown for all or any of the purposes of the Mauritius (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1947, notwithstanding that he is paid a salary in respect of the discharge of his duties as such.

The Ministers' Salaries Ordinance, 1957
(No. 11 of 1957)

This Ordinance provides for the payment of salaries to Ministers.

*The Legislative Council (Allowances) (Amendment) Ordinance,
1957*

(No. 12 of 1957)

This Ordinance removes from the Legislative Council (Allowances) Ordinance, 1948, the provisions relating to payment of allowances to members of the Executive Council and to Liaison Officers.

*The Legislative Council (Saving of Membership) Ordinance, 1957
(No. 28 of 1957)*

This Ordinance provides that certain offices shall not be deemed to be offices of emolument under the Crown so as to avoid the disqualification of members of the Legislative Council which would otherwise result from their appointment to certain boards and committees.

*The Executive Council (Transfer of Powers and Duties)
Ordinance, 1957
(No. 35 of 1957)*

This Ordinance makes provision for changes in procedure necessary with the introduction of the ministerial system. Various matters hitherto vested in the Executive Council are transferred to the appropriate authorities in conformity with normal practice pertaining to the Executive Council as a Council of Ministers.

The changes effected by this Ordinance are supplemented by fresh provisions in the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance, 1957 (No. 44 of 1957).

The following Ordinances, though to a great extent consequential upon the institution of the ministerial system in the Colony, had moreover become necessary to embody in separate laws such entirely different subject as the Protection of Public Officers and the Application of Fines:—

*The Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance, 1957
(No. 44 of 1957)*

*The Public Officers Protection Ordinance, 1957
(No. 45 of 1957)*

*The Application of Fines Ordinance, 1957
(No. 46 of 1957)*

Chapter 9 : Justice, Police and Prisons

J U S T I C E

The Laws of Mauritius are mainly based on the French Codes. The Civil Code, the Penal Code, the Code of Commerce and the Code of Civil Procedure, with such amendments as have been made thereto to suit local conditions, are still to a large extent in force in the Colony. There are also a great number of Ordinances.

The Bankruptcy Law, the Company Law, the Law of Evidence and the Law of Criminal Procedure are, however, mostly English, as well as is the whole system of the Labour Laws.

The highest judicial authority is the Supreme Court of the Colony of Mauritius and its Dependencies consisting of the Chief Justice and three Puisne Judges.

The Executive Officer of that Court is the Master and Registrar, who is also a Judge of the Bankruptcy Division of the Court.

The Supreme Court is a superior Court of record and has the same powers, authority and jurisdiction as the High Court of Justice in England. It exercises jurisdiction in divorce matters and Admiralty jurisdiction in virtue of the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act, 1890, and is also a Court of the Colony of Equity. It has powers of supervision over all the other Courts of the Colony and hears appeals from the Supreme Court of the Colony of Seychelles in civil matters.

Appeals lie to the Privy Council in certain cases against judgments of the Supreme Court.

The Judges of the Supreme Court preside over the Assize Court, the verdict being returned by a jury of nine men; the decision must be that of at least seven out of the nine members.

Since the 1st January, 1955, there has been a Court of Criminal Appeal. The Chief Justice and the Judges of the Supreme Court are the Judges of that Court which is constituted by three Judges. That Court hears appeals from persons convicted before the Supreme Court.

The District Magistrates of the Colony have jurisdiction in civil cases in which the subject matter does not exceed Rs 3,000 in value. They hold judicial enquiries in cases of accidental death or of fire, and preliminary enquiries in cases triable by the Assize Court. In addition they deal with certain matters in Chambers.

The summary jurisdiction of a District Court in criminal matters is vested in a District Magistrate who deals with the less serious

offences and is empowered to sentence an accused party to imprisonment with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding one year, and to a fine not exceeding Rs 1,000.

Certain offences may be tried by an intermediary Court consisting of a Bench of three Magistrates who have power to impose a sentence of penal servitude of not more than three years and a sentence of imprisonment of not more than two years, and who may also impose any fine not exceeding the maximum provided by law for the offence dealt with by them.

There are now 14 Magistrates, of whom one is also the Civil Commissioner for Rodrigues and administers justice in that Dependency.

A visiting Magistrate inspects once annually each of the Lesser Dependencies.

There is in addition an Industrial Court which is presided over by a Magistrate and which has exclusive jurisdiction—subject to appeal or review—in all labour disputes including workmen's compensation cases and matters arising out of factory legislation.

The administrative control over the Magistracy has, since 1945, been vested in the Chief Justice.

The majority of the civil cases brought before District Courts concern claims for money, or possession of tenement, or ownership of land.

On the criminal side, most of the cases, other than petty breaches of the law, relate to offences involving fraud, e.g. larceny, embezzlement, forgery, or swindling, or offences against the person, e.g. wounds and blows, indecent acts and assaults, or breaches of the road traffic laws.

During the year 25 cases were brought before the Court of Assizes. No case went before the Court of Criminal Appeal.

There were 535 civil cases entered before the Supreme Court as compared with 545 in 1956, 284 cases were entered before the Industrial Court as compared with 340 in 1956, and 4,705 civil cases and 30,253 criminal cases were heard by the District Courts.

P O L I C E

Functions

The functions of the Mauritius Police Force are prescribed by section 14 of the Police Ordinance (Cap. 312) and include preserving the public peace, preventing and detecting crimes, misdemeanours and contraventions, regulating traffic, and executing warrants and summonses issued by the Courts.

In addition to their primary responsibility for preventing and detecting offences and for maintaining law and order, the Police are responsible for the control of immigration and emigration, weights and measures, issuing of licences (drivers, liquor, firearms, etc.), the collection of inland revenue, the supervision of licensed premises and other extraneous duties.

Strength

The Police Force consists of a Commissioner of Police, and of such other Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Constables as may be determined by the Governor from time to time with the approval of the Secretary of State.

Organization

The Mauritius Police Force has an authorised establishment of 30 officers and 1,161 other ranks. In addition there are 28 Police Women who are employed on clerical work.

The Constables are trained in foot and baton drill, and a number of selected personnel in each District and at Headquarters are trained in the use of tear smoke.

The Commissioner of Police assisted by the Deputy Commissioner of Police and other Officers has his Headquarters at Line Barracks in Port Louis.

The personnel of the Force is distributed between:

(a) Police Headquarters and the following Branches:

- (i) Criminal Investigation and Revenue and Liquor Branch;
- (ii) Pay and Quartermaster's Branch;
- (iii) Road Traffic Branch;
- (iv) Training School and Reserve;
- (v) Forensic Science Laboratory;
- (vi) The Band;
- (vii) The Water Police;
- (viii) The Rodrigues Police;
- (ix) The Railway Police;

(b) Six Police Districts controlling 48 Police Stations and Posts.

The Criminal Investigation Department

This Branch is responsible for the investigation of serious crimes and cases of a special nature such as frauds and defalcations; it also affords assistance to the District Police when necessary and collates the statistics of crime for the whole Island.

To the C.I.D. are attached the Finger Print and *Modus Operandi* Bureau, the Photographic Section, the Immigration and Passport Section, the Central Registry of Habitual Criminals and the Revenue and Liquor Branch.

Finger Print and Modus Operandi Bureau

147 scenes were visited by the staff and articles bearing finger prints were brought to the Finger Print Office by the District Police in 189 cases. Decipherable prints were found in 75 cases; 30 identifications were made. In four cases finger prints were the sole evidence available against the accused parties. In four cases documents bearing finger prints were referred to the Finger Print Office and in two cases identity was established. The Finger Print slips of 14,140 criminals (male and female) are on record. The scene of crime collection contains 108 photographs of unidentified prints found at scenes of crime. The palm print collection contains 2,079 prints. 859 criminals showing a distinctive *Modus Operandi* are registered in a Method Index and 438 criminals are on the Findex System.

The Photographic Section

7,205 photographs were supplied. These included 75 scenes of crime and 75 of fatal or serious accidents. 651 criminals were photographed, 858 photographs were supplied for warrant cards issued to members of the Force and special constables, and five dead bodies were photographed to assist identification.

Immigration and Passport Section

During the year, 1,375 passports (including 241 free) were issued, 329 renewed and 184 visaed. 121 emergency certificates of nationality, 5 collective passports and 26 Seaman's certificates of nationality and identity were issued. 57 forms of affidavit in lieu of passport were registered. The Immigration staff attended 347 ships arriving in Port Louis and 167 aircraft at Plaisance Airport. 7,873 persons entered the Colony, including 95 immigrants, and 8,040 left, including 118 emigrants.

Supervision of Habitual Criminals

Supervision is maintained over habitual criminals and bad characters who are sentenced to Police Supervision by the Courts. There were 2,144 re-convicted male criminals in the Island, including 177 first offenders re-convicted during the year.

Revenue and Liquor Section

This Section controls the collection of inland revenue and for that purpose keeps a card index record of all trade licences issued quarterly. Regular checks of licensed premises are effected by the personnel of the Section whose duties also include the prevention and detection of offences against the Distillery, Liquor, Dangerous Drugs, and Weights and Measures laws. The Section pays particular attention to the detection of opium offences, illicit distillation of spirits and to the prevention of gambling in private clubs.

Pay and Quartermaster's Branch

Under the charge of the Pay and Quartermaster of the Force, this Branch is divided into two Sections: the Pay Section and the Store Section, the latter under the special charge of the Assistant Pay and Quartermaster. The Pay Section is responsible for all the finance and accounting of the Force and for the collection of inland revenue. The Store Section deals with indents for materials, the manufacture and issue of uniforms for all ranks, and the supply generally of stores and accoutrements to the Force.

Road Traffic

Police Vehicles in use:

Motor Cycles (solos) ...	...	26
Land Rovers ...	...	16
Vans and Light Trucks ...	...	8
Prisoners' vans ...	...	3
Lorries ...	...	8 (including a mobile canteen)
Motor cars ...	...	19
Cyclemasters ...	...	13

The number of vehicles continued to increase and by the end of 1957 had reached the figure of 11,456. Although the incidence of accidents was still on the high side a slight decrease was recorded during 1957.

Training School

Recruits from among young men of the local population are enlisted between the ages of 19 and 25 after undergoing educational and medical examinations. Selections are made by a Board of Officers appointed and convened for the purpose.

The School aims at training the members of the Force on the same lines as in the United Kingdom and at inculcating in them tact, patience, tolerance, good humour, initiative and ability to rely on their own judgment and resources.

The normal period of training of recruits at the Training School is five months, which affords time to give adequate instruction in laws, police duties and procedure, general knowledge, first aid, elementary drill, riot drill and physical training.

Recruits undergo theoretical training for the first three months, and practical training, including station and street duties, during the second half of their stage at the School.

The Band

The Mauritius Police Band which was first established in 1921 is a full military brass band, composed of trained musicians. A dance orchestra was formed in 1947 from among members of the Band.

The Water Police

The Water Police are under the orders of the Superintendent of Police, Port Louis district. The unit comprises one Corporal and nine Constables. It is equipped with a 15 H.P. motor launch suitable for use only within the harbour. The unit performs regular patrols in Port Louis Harbour, to maintain law and order and to enforce harbour regulations. Its duties also include preventing persons from stowing away, assisting in the enforcement of immigration and quarantine laws, supervising the unloading of cattle, and preventing smuggling.

During the year the Water Police attended 382 ships which entered the harbour.

The Rodrigues Police

The Rodrigues Police, commanded by an Assistant Superintendent, is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the dependency. The establishment of this Police formation is one Officer and 27 other ranks.

The Railway Police

A Sub-Inspector, a Sergeant and seven Constables are attached to the Railway Department as a special Force to deal with offences committed on the Railway.

The Forensic Science Laboratory

This important institution of the Force was established in 1938 and maintains a high degree of professional competence. It is under the charge of the Police Medical Officer, who is assisted by a suitably trained staff.

The Forensic Science Laboratory deals with the scientific examination of exhibits, the examination of documents and the iden-

tification of handwriting and typewriting in relation to cases of forgery and kindred offences. It also deals with any other aspect of crimes requiring scientific investigation.

Lectures on medical jurisprudence, first aid and hygiene are delivered regularly by the Police Medical Officer.

First Aid: St. John Ambulance Association

Courses of instruction in First Aid are given to members of the Force, the Railway Department and the Fire Service. All lectures are delivered by qualified medical officers or lay lectures with the assistance of instructors for practical demonstration in accordance with the regulations of the St. John Ambulance Overseas. Examinations were held during the year and 489 members of the Police Force are now qualified and hold the St. John's certificate.

A Mauritius Police Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade has been formed and registered at the Overseas Headquarters in England.

The Home Nursing Division which was registered and approved on 1st April, 1952, has a strength of 28.

Games, Recreation and Welfare

As much time as possible is devoted to the playing of games and to recreation generally. The Force possesses good football, volley ball and hockey teams. Inter-District and friendly matches with local teams are frequently played. A start has been made with boxing and swimming.

The Officers, Inspectorate, N.C.Os and Constables each have their own mess and recreation rooms.

A well-stocked canteen is open to all ranks of the Force. The Police Band contributes to official and demi-official functions in the various messes and institutions of the Force.

A library and reading room is open daily to members of the Force and to public subscribers. Books, reviews, and newspapers are regularly imported and are circulated throughout the Colony among members of the Force posted at out-stations in the country districts. The stock of English and French books in the library is 11,198.

A Police Federation of all ranks from Inspector to Constable exists for the consideration of any matters concerning the welfare and efficiency of its members, other than matters of discipline and promotions affecting individuals.

Firearms

Firearms are strictly controlled. The number of firearms licensed during the year was 5,459.

Police Reserve and Special Constables

With the approval of the Governor, a Police Reserve consisting mainly of retired Police and Army Officers has been enrolled and is available for mobilization at short notice. The object of the Reserve is to provide a cadre of reliable citizens to assist the regular Police Force in an emergency.

In accordance with section 47 of the Police Ordinance (Cap. 312), special constables may be appointed at any time. A start was made in 1955 with the enrolment and training of 100 special constables on the lines of the Special Constabulary in Great Britain. In 1956 the approved strength was increased to 200.

Offences

The number of offences reported to the Police in 1957 was as follows:

Crimes	1,198
Misdemeanours ...	18,158
Contraventions ...	30,806

P R I S O N S

Functions of the Prisons Department

The principal duty of the Prisons Department is to maintain in safe custody the offenders delivered to its care. Subject to this, every possible effort is made by education, training in crafts, the issue of books and periodicals, the showing of instructional films and the introduction of privileges for good behaviour to imbue the prisoners with a sense of dignity, of self-respect and of duty towards the community and country such as will fit them to re-enter the outside world as useful citizens on completion of their sentence.

Penal Administration

There are three institutions in the Colony dealing with persons received from the Courts:

- (a) Central Prison, Beau Bassin, to which the Women's Prison is attached;
- (b) Borstal Institution, Grand River North West;
- (c) Industrial School, Beau Bassin.

(a) Central Prison

Beau Bassin Prison consists of two three-storey blocks accommodating 980 prisoners in separate cells and a remand block having

6 large communal and 6 separate cells accommodating 50 prisoners. There are also workshops where the following trades are taught: blacksmithing, tinsmithing, carpentry (3 shops), tailoring, shoe-making, basketry, mat-making and book-binding. There is also a concrete block-making industry and the erection of new buildings is carried out by prisoners. There are two hospital wards, together with stores and isolation wards.

The administrative headquarters of the service are situated in the Central Prison, at which all prisoners, both male and female, are received and discharged.

Within the men's prison at Beau Bassin there are now six yards laid out with flower beds and lawns where prisoners can associate for meals and leisure. Prisoners are segregated according to classification in the different yards:—

No. 1 Yard—Felon Recidivists

No. 2 Yard—Ordinary Recidivists

No. 3 Yard—Punishment Yard

No. 4 Yard—Stars (First offenders, all ages)

No. 5 Yard—Young prisoners (17–23 years)

No. 6 Yard—Remand Yard.

The classes are kept segregated as far as possible while at work. There is also a grade system in operation whereby a prisoner can by good behaviour pass successively from Probationary to 3rd, 2nd and 1st Grade, each grade having certain privileges, such as extra books, longer time in association and the playing of games.

Young prisoners now undergo recreational training under a trained instructor, morning and afternoon. There are also three voluntary recreational classes each evening. A qualified school teacher is attached to the Department and takes three voluntary educational classes each evening after prison labour has ceased.

A cinema show is given inside the prison twice a month, when films of topical and educational interest are shown. During week-ends (on Saturdays and Sundays) the football pitch outside the prison is used by prisoners. About 200 prisoners enjoy this privilege each week, not including those who go out as spectators. Prisoners now have their own football team which plays against civilian teams on Wednesday evenings, when about 200 prisoner spectators are permitted to attend. Volley-ball pitches and a basket-ball pitch inside the prison walls are in use daily after labour.

The number of unofficial visitors, both to the men's and women's prisons, has increased.

The women prisoners are housed in the women's prison which was opened in May, 1951. It adjoins the main prison but has a separate entrance. The grounds are attractively laid out with lawns, flowers and a vegetable plot. A large number of fruit trees and flowering shrubs has been planted. The inmates, who are few in number, are taught sewing, gardening and mat-weaving, the latter by unofficial visitors.

(b) Borstal Institution

The Borstal Institution is of minimum security and has accommodation for about 125 youths. It is run on similar lines to a Borstal in the United Kingdom.

The inmates are classified into the ordinary, probationary and special grades; there is also a penal grade for boys under punishment. Apart from classification, they are divided into three Houses (Red, Blue and White) which compete to stimulate interest.

The lads receive daily instruction in carpentry, tinsmithing, tailoring, cooking, boot-and shoe-making and gardening. A party of boys goes daily to the Forest Nursery for work and instruction. In addition they have physical training and educational classes under a qualified teacher.

Educational films are shown and explained to the lads twice monthly and outdoor games are organised each evening. Lads of the special and probationary grades swim at the sea side three times a week. Football matches are played against outside teams and an annual sports day has been instituted. The boys attended their camp in September.

A Borstal Visiting Committee meets monthly and, among other things, decides on questions of release.

(c) Industrial School

The School has accommodation for about 200 boys and is run on the same lines as an English Approved School.

Boys up to the age of 18 years are catered for. The senior boys are divided into houses (Red, White and Blue), while the juniors (under 14) are in Yellow House, where they are separately accommodated and fed. A monthly "house" competition is run with points for conduct, cleanliness and upkeep of the house gardens.

All junior boys attend school daily for four hours under qualified teachers and receive primary school instruction up to the 5th Standard. After the 5th Standard boys who are still of school age attend an ordinary Government primary school. Senior boys who are illiterate attend school three evenings a week.

All boys do daily physical training under a qualified instructor and in addition take part in organised games. Films of educational value are shown and commented on by the Visual Education Officer and lectures on citizenship, forestry, electricity and animal husbandry have been given by experts who have offered their services to help the boys. Instruction in tinsmithing, brushmaking, shoe-making, carpentry, cooking and gardening is given to the boys in accordance with their aptitudes.

The School drum-and-fife band is popular and always appreciated. All boys have an opportunity of spending a fortnight under canvas at the sea.

Prison Discipline

During 1957, 625 reports were dealt with as follows: 9 by the Prison Board and 616 by the Commissioner.

Remissions

All prisoners sentenced to imprisonment whether by one sentence or by consecutive sentences for a period of not less than 30 days are entitled to have one-third of their sentences remitted.

No payment is yet made for prison labour but an earnings scheme is in operation.

Chapter 10 : Public Utilities and Public Works

ELECTRICITY

1957 was the first full year of the Central Electricity Board's operation as the sole producer and distributor of electricity throughout the island.

Installed capacity of plant and units generated during the year were as follows:—

			K	Units
<i>Hydro :—</i>				
Tamarind Falls	...	...	8,000	23,146,650
Rédut	...	...	600	2,408,497
Cascade Cécile	...	...	310	674,970
<i>Thermal :—</i>				
St. Louis	...	...	7,000	17,815,040
Sack Factory	...	...	500	286,820
St. Antoine S.E.	...	...	250	278,880
TOTAL			16,660	44,610,857

Work on the major Eau Bleue hydro-electric scheme with a capacity of 4,000 KW continued, the civil engineering works being undertaken by the Public Works Department. The scheme is due for completion early in 1959. Preparatory work on Magenta hydro-electric scheme continued and the La Ferme project was put in hand.

With the completion of the new pipeline the Tamarind Falls station reverted to its full capacity.

Various alternative sources of additional generating capacity were under consideration during the year with the object of meeting the rapidly rising demand for power and reducing the disproportionately high amount of electricity produced by expensive thermal generation. The cost of the latter method was again emphasised by a long, dry spell at the end of the year.

Following the agreement with St. Antoine Sugar Estate for the purchase of surplus crop-season power from the factory, the H.V. line to the North of the Island was completed and the first power from the factory was fed into the grid in September. A mutually advantageous agreement was concluded with Flacq United Estates Ltd. in August by which the factory will be equipped with additional turbines and the company will supply power to the Board during the crop season; 2.16 million units are expected to be provided in 1958 and the figure is likely to rise to 6.4 million units by 1960. The Board are providing the company with a loan of Rs 3 million under the terms of the agreement.

The Board's concrete pole-manufacturing plant produced 751 poles of various sizes which were used in the extension and strengthening of the H.V. and L.V. distribution system, on which a total of 35.5 miles of line was erected during the year.

A 24-hour supply was given to the following villages and camps in the course of the year:—

Terre Rouge, Cassis, Mon Désert and Mon Trésor S.E.,
St. Antoine S.E., Tamarind Estate Camp.

The total number of consumers at the end of the year was 38,363, representing an increase of 5.9% over 1956.

The constitution of the Board was modified at the end of the year with a reduction to five members: the Chairman and the General Manager, a Government representative and representatives of urban and rural consumers.

WATER SUPPLIES

The progress made in the development of water supplies for domestic, irrigation and hydro-electric purposes is reviewed below.

(i) *Domestic Water Supplies*

The principal sources of domestic water supplies are Mare-aux-Vacoas, Grand River North West and Piton du Milieu.

The supply from Mare-aux-Vacoas is derived from a storage reservoir of 597 million cubic feet capacity at an elevation of 1,850 feet above sea level and provides water for about half the population of the Island. It serves the district of Plaines Wilhems and parts of the districts of Moka, Black River and Port Louis. Important works of improvement to this water supply are being carried out further to extend the supply and to meet the increased demand due to the growth of population and to the rise in the standard of living. Consumption in 1957 reached a maximum of 10,600,000 gallons per day. The water is filtered and chlorinated before distribution. Filtering capacity is being further increased by the construction of new filters. New service reservoirs and trunk mains were built in 1956 and further extensions were continued in 1957.

The Grand River North West water supply is derived from the river of that name at an elevation of about 250 feet above sea level. The supply amounts to 5,000,000 gallons per day. It is managed by the Municipality of Port Louis and serves exclusively the town of Port Louis with a population of about 80,000. The water is filtered and chlorinated before use.

The Piton du Milieu Reservoir is now in operation and provides water to localities in the North, East and South of the Island comprising the districts of Rivière du Rempart, Flacq, Grand Port, Savanne and part of Moka, gradually replacing former unsatisfactory supply sources. The new supply is derived from a storage reservoir of 110 million cubic feet capacity at an elevation of 1,435 feet. The scheme, when completed, will supply 4,000,000 gallons per day to a population of about 143,000 inhabitants. The reservoir was completed at the end of 1953, and work is continuing on the construction of filters and the laying of pipes for the distribution system.

The 15" trunk main from the filters towards the districts of the South was completed and further service mains and distribution pipes from 10" to 3" diameter were laid during last year. The system now covers nearly the whole of the area to be served and an extension of the supply to the villages on the coast between Grand River S.E. and Old Grand Port is being carried out.

(ii) *Irrigation*

Irrigation is carried out in the Black River district from La Ferme reservoir and in the northern districts of Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart from La Nicolière reservoir.

La Ferme reservoir, at an elevation of 450 feet above sea level, has a capacity of 417 million cubic feet and serves to irrigate at present 2,500 acres. Additional supplies are being derived from Mare-aux-Vacoas, Mare Longue and Tamarind Falls reservoirs by means of the Magenta Canal, completed in 1954, which has brought another 1,500 acres under irrigation.

La Nicolière reservoir, at an elevation of 800 feet above sea level, has a capacity of 200 million cubic feet and serves to irrigate about 1,000 acres of land. The reservoir is linked to Midlands by the Midlands—La Nicolière Feeder Canal 17 miles long.

(iii) *Hydro-Electric Power*

Water for hydro-electric purposes is supplied from three reservoirs:

- (a) the Mare-aux-Vacoas reservoir mentioned in (i) above;
- (b) the Mare Longue reservoir of a storage capacity of 220 million cubic feet at an elevation of 1,900 feet above sea level;
- (c) the Tamarind Falls reservoir of a storage capacity of 72 million cubic feet at an elevation of 1,625 feet above sea level.

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EAU BLEUE HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER DAM

The three reservoirs are situated in the catchment area of the Tamarind river and supply water to a power station situated at 960 feet below the Tamarind Falls reservoir.

The output of the power station in 1957 was 23.1 million KWH., being below normal owing to drought conditions.

After going through the power station, water passes through the Magenta Canal, and is used for irrigation purposes in the Black River district.

Work on the hydro-electric project at Eau Bleue were started early in 1955 and continued in 1957. The scheme provides for the construction of an earth dam of approximately $7\frac{1}{2}$ million cubic feet and the storage of 220 million cubic feet of water. The site of the reservoir is on River Eau Bleue near Midlands. A fall of 600 feet will be made available by cutting through a ridge separating the reservoir site from Le Val where the power station will be situated. By the end of the year some 5 MCF of earth had been placed in the dam and work had started on the forebay, penstock and power station sites.

The power station will have an output capacity of about 5 million KWH per annum making use of the flow of River Eau Bleue alone. By supplementing the flow of River Eau Bleue by that of River Citron, the output of the power station may be increased to 8 million KWH per annum. The total output can further be increased to 14 million units by diverting part of Grand River South East into the reservoir.

PUBLIC WORKS

The responsibilities of the Public Works and Surveys Department may be set out as follows:—

- (a) maintenance and/or construction of (i) all Government works in connexion with water supplies, roads, bridges, cemeteries, quays and machinery at the Harbour, (ii) Military Works on behalf of the Military Authorities and (iii) Government buildings costing not more than Rs 10,000;
- (b) the management of all Crown lands and lands forming part of the *domaine public*, and the acquisition of land for public purposes;
- (c) the leasing of sand quarries;

- (d) the valuation and the inspection of all lands pledged to Government, the assessment of damage caused by fire to canefields or other properties and the assessment of compensation for property acquired;
- (e) advice to Government on public works and all questions relating to the other functions of the Department.

The supply of materials from overseas was regular during the year and good progress was made in the development of the water works undertaken by the Public Works Department.

Maintenance work was also carried out without any difficulty.

Much attention was given to the maintenance and improvement of roads.

O B S E R V A T O R Y

The Observatory Department maintains a meteorological and magnetic station at the Royal Alfred Observatory, Pamplemousses, an administrative and forecasting headquarters at Vacoas and a meteorological observing station at Plaisance Airfield. Meteorological observing stations are also maintained in the Dependencies at Agaléga, Diégo Garcia, Rodrigues and St. Brandon.

Complete rainfall records were collected from about 190 gauges distributed over the Colony. About 400 meteorological observations were collected each month from ships at sea. The daily weather maps covered, as far as possible, the whole of the Indian Ocean and surrounding continents between 15° N and 50° S. Meteorological observations and forecasts were prepared and transmitted daily for the use of meteorological services of other countries, shipping, aviation, Government Departments and the public. Special warnings of tropical cyclones were provided and numerous general enquiries from authorities overseas and in the colony were answered.

A completely new meteorological observing station and a simple wireless transmitting and receiving station were constructed at St. Brandon as part of a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme. Preparations were started for the Colony to play its small part in the International Geophysical Year lasting from July, 1957, to December, 1958. This participation is expected to take the form of an increased observational programme at meteorological stations and recruitment of locally registered ships as meteorological reporting vessels. A completely new upper air sounding and radar wind station is expected to start operating in Mauritius as early as possible in the period.

THE GRANARY

The Granary, which was completed in 1933, is a two-storeyed building of ferro-concrete and brick and covers an area of $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres. It adjoins a lighter quay 389 feet long served by six electrically-operated hoists which lift bagged grain from lighters at the quay to the top floor of the building, which is operated as a Customs transit shed. From the top floor grain is delivered by gravity chutes to the first and ground floors which are divided into twelve and six separate stores. Other gravity chutes connect the first floor with the delivery yard at the rear of the building.

The Granary Ordinance (Cap. 64) prescribes that all grain (which includes rice, dhol, lentils, gram, peas and any other cereal which may be declared grain for that purpose by Proclamation), shall be discharged from ships to lighters and conveyed to the Granary for storage. The Ordinance limits the amount of grain which may be stored elsewhere than at the Granary.

The building was designed and erected with the object of protecting grain against contamination and destruction by pests, particularly rodents, and all entrances, exits and personnel lifts are operated with this in view.

After allowing for passageways and separation of cargoes, storage capacity is sufficient for approximately 500,000 bags of grain (about 34,500 tons).

As originally planned the various stores of the first and ground floors were to be allocated to importers who would be responsible for their stocks delivered from the top floor. Such allocation however has not been possible for a considerable time because of bulk-buying, particularly of rice, by the Government and the consequent occupation of the greater part of the store for the storage of Government supplies.

All grain is stored in the Granary in bags: there is no bulk storage. Pest infestation is prevented as far as possible by spraying insecticide. Measures against white ants and termites are carried out by a local firm under contract and stores are fumigated as frequently as traffic permits.

The Granary Department, which is responsible for the administration and maintenance of the building, is under the control of the Granary Superintendent who is also the Comptroller of Customs. Handling and stacking of grain is carried out by contract labour. During the year 1956-57, 48,660 tons of rice and 4,605 tons of other grain were handled.

GOVERNMENT FIRE SERVICES

The functions of the Fire Services are prescribed in section 4 of the Fire Services Ordinance (No. 56 of 1953) and consist in taking all available measures with a view to extinguishing fires and to protecting life and property in case of fires in any area outside the District and Town of Port Louis.

The Department comprises an administrative office in Port Louis and six fire stations at Curepipe, Rose Hill, Quatre Bornes, **Rivière des Anguilles**, **Mahébourg** and **Piton**. On the 31st December, 1957, the staff was composed of 1 Controller, 1 Office Supervisor, 1 Chief Officer, 1 Deputy Chief Officer, 2 Station Officers, 20 Sub Officers, 24 Leading Firemen and 142 Firemen.

The Service responded to 380 fire calls, compared with 356 in the previous year. The loss caused by fire, excluding loss in the Port Louis municipal area, was estimated at Rs 635,870 compared with Rs 091,230 in 1956. Appliances on fire calls covered 11,593 vehicle miles.

Within the area covered by the Service there were 832 fire hydrants on the 31st December, 1957, including 67 new hydrants installed during the year.

The number of requests for the attendance of firemen during presentations of stage plays was 92 and the attendance fees collected during the year amounted to Rs 1,868.

In accordance with Regulation 4(2) of the **Inflammable Liquids and Substances Regulations** (Government Notice No. 179 of 1953) 20 certificates were issued by the Controller of Fire Services to the effect that the premises on which filling stations will operate are adequately protected against fire.

Fire appliances in nearly all Government buildings and cinema halls were tested.

Six requests for pumping on sugar estates and private premises were attended to and fees for these attendances amounted to Rs 632.48.

The average cost per man in the Service during the year was Rs 4,108 while the cost of the Service per head of population (excluding the inhabitants of Port Louis) was Rs 1.62. The total revenue collected in 1956-57 was Rs 77,301.

The mobile appliances distributed to the various fire stations included 8 fire engines, 6 large and 11 small trailer pumps, 6 water lorries, 1 water trailer, 3 cars, 1 lorry, 1 foam van, 5 hose carriers, 2 Land Rovers, 1 " scooter " motor cycle and 5 bicycles.

Chapter 11 : Communications

S H I P P I N G

Port Louis, the capital of the Island, is also the only port. Ten ocean-going and four small vessels can be accommodated at any one time.

Vessels are normally moored at buoys in the harbour, though two quays are available, one of 492 feet and able to take a vessel of 29 feet draft and one of 390 feet for vessels of drafts up to 17 feet. Both coal and oil bunkers are available in limited quantities; there is a good supply of fresh water.

Regular cargo services are provided from the United Kingdom by the Clan Line of Steamers, Bullard King Limited and the Ellerman Lines, and from continental and French Mediterranean ports by the French Companies *Messageries Maritimes*, *Nouvelle Compagnie Havraise Péninsulaire* and the *Svedel* Line.

Passenger services direct from the United Kingdom to Mauritius are infrequent. The French vessels from Marseilles to Mauritius provide the better service.

The Dutch *Royal Inter-ocean Line* vessels call at Port Louis regularly on the Far East, South Africa and South America service, thereby providing a regular passenger and cargo service to and from the Far East and South Africa. Passengers wishing to travel to the United Kingdom usually tranship from the Dutch vessels to the Union Castle Line at Durban.

A total of 371 vessels entered Port Louis harbour during the year, with a total net registered tonnage of 1,363,918 tons. Of these 371 vessels 191 were of British Registry, 60 French, 52 Dutch, 15 Norwegian, six Swedish, one United States, one South African, one Italian, four Panamanian, three Liberian, one Czechoslovak, two Polish, nine Japanese, six Indian, two German, one Australian, two Danish, one Finnish, four Greek, four Pakistani, one Yugoslav, three Irish, and one Korean.

There are four small vessels on the local register. Three of them are employed on services to the dependencies of Mauritius and the fourth, *M.V. Mauritius*, a 1,165 *NRT* cargo and passenger liner, is employed on runs to the dependencies, Madagascar, South and East Africa and Australia. These vessels have a combined net registered tonnage of 2,160 tons.

During the year 3,543 passengers entered the Colony by sea and 3,711 left the Island. These figures include passengers in transit,

CIVIL AVIATION

There is only one airport in Mauritius. It is situated at Plaisance, in the south-east of the Island about three miles from the coast, and is managed by the Civil Aviation Department of the Mauritius Government.

Air France have scheduled "Super Constellation" service twice weekly between Paris and Mauritius via Nairobi, Madagascar and Réunion. *Qantas Empire Airways* provides a fortnightly scheduled "Super Constellation" service between Sydney and Johannesburg via Melbourne, Perth, Cocos Islands and Mauritius and from South Africa to Australia via the same route. *South African Airways* operate a fortnightly scheduled service between Johannesburg and Perth along the same route, alternating with the Qantas flights.

No aircraft is based in Mauritius and no internal services exist.

During the course of the year new wireless telegraphy and radio-telephony equipment and landing aids were received and installed at the airport by the staff of the Aeradio Division of the Civil Aviation Department.

The meteorological services at the airport are under the control of the Director of Observatory, who is responsible for providing forecasts and all other meteorological information required; meteorological observers are stationed at the airport.

Apart from normal air-ground communication services daily point-to-point schedules were maintained throughout 1957 with East Africa (Nairobi), Madagascar, South Africa, Réunion and Cocos Islands.

The total number of landings and take-offs at Plaisance airport during the year amounted to 363. The number of incoming and outgoing passengers was 10,581, including 1,907 passengers in transit as compared with 9,275 during 1956. Incoming and outgoing freight amounted to 106,473,592 kilos and mails carried to 31,598,932 kilos.

All aircraft calling at Plaisance were refuelled by the Refuelling Division at the airport. The total amount of aviation spirit and oil used for refuelling aircraft amounted to 386,722 Imperial gallons and 3,418 Imperial gallons respectively.

RAILWAYS

The public railway system of Mauritius (4'-8½" gauge) is operated by the Government. The railway network has 82 miles of line varying between sea level and an altitude of 1,800 feet. By

law heavy goods (manufactured sugar, fertilizers, coal and gunny bags) must be transported by rail. The last of the regular passenger services was run on the 31st March, 1956.

The deficit on the working of the railways amounted to Rs 1,108,574 for the financial year 1956-57.

Statistics for the financial year ended the 30th June, 1957, are as follows:—

Length of line open to traffic	...	...	Miles	82
Goods Traffic :				
Sugar	...	...	Tons	477,795
Sugar Cane	...	...	Tons	1,864
General Merchandise	...	...	Tons	50,623
Goods Traffic Receipts :				
Sugar	...	...	Rs	3,675,202
Sugar Cane	...	...	Rs	3,050
General Merchandise	...	...	Rs	253,630
Train Mileage	...	...	Train Miles	117,540
Receipts per Train Mile	...	...	Rs	35.68
Expenditure per Train Mile	...	...	Rs	47.53
Road Motor Service:				
Total Passenger Vehicle	Miles	...	Vehicle Miles	121,591
Passengers carried	...	...	Number	332,836
Passenger Receipts	...	...	Rs	81,586
Parcels carried	...	...	Number	1,344
Parcels receipts	...	...	Rs	403
Goods Traffic:				
Sugar	...	...	Tons	30,729
General Merchandise	...	...	Tons	10,692
Goods Receipts :				
Sugar	...	...	Rs	192,975
General Merchandise	...	...	Rs	62,120
Number of vehicles in service:				
10 lorries and 8 trailers	...	...
1 dual purpose vehicle	...	...
2 buses	...	...

ROADS

Mauritius is provided with an extensive road system, consisting of some 736 miles of public main and branch roads, most of which are suitable for motor traffic. All the roads are metalled and about 391 miles are bitumen coated. Practically all the main roads are open to heavy motor vehicles, but owing to the rapid development of road traffic during the past twenty years many of the roads are too narrow for moderately fast transport to operate in safety. There are also some blind corners and very populous villages to travel through, while the roads are further congested by slow moving goods transport and the large public transport vehicles.

The maintenance of proclaimed main and branch roads continued in the normal manner and improvements were carried out to some of the existing tarred surfaces. An additional 14 miles of roads was asphalted.

The Public Works Department is responsible for the maintenance of proclaimed roads and District Councils for the maintenance of unproclaimed roads.

ROAD TRANSPORT

There were 11,456 motor vehicles registered in the Island in 1957 as compared with 10,882 in 1956, classified as:

Private cars	6,395
Lorries	2,275
Taxis	1,030
Buses	430
Motor Cycles	769
Tractors	765
Government Vehicles	392

The figure for private cars includes 161 vans and 79 jeeps, licensed as private cars and the figure for lorries includes 353 vans licensed as carriers.

The bus fleets had increased to a total of 369 vehicles in use at the end of 1957. The repair, maintenance, and construction of coachwork improved. An average of 100,000 passengers travelled daily by bus.

There were 2,225 goods vehicles in use in 1957—an increase of 366 over the preceding year's figure. They are used mainly in connection with the sugar industry for conveying cane to the factories and other materials to sugar estates. The trend towards replacing tramway haulage in the cane fields by motor vehicles and the extended acreage under cultivation have no doubt contributed substantially to the increase in the number of vehicles licensed.

VEHICLE LICENSING

The annual licence duties payable in respect of motor vehicles are as follows:—

	Rs.
(a) Motor cycles, per H.P.	6
(b) Private cars, per H.P.	8
(c) (i) Taxis not exceeding 10 H.P.	108
(ii) For every additional H.P.	8
(d) (i) Motor buses not more than 10 H.P. and having a seating capacity for not more than 20 passengers	512
(ii) For every additional H.P.	8
(e) (i) Private Motor Lorries not exceeding 10 H.P.	200
(ii) Public Carriers not exceeding 10 H.P.	300
(iii) For every additional H.P.	8
(iv) Per metric ton of maximum gross weight or fraction thereof	40

Public Service and goods vehicles are licensed quarterly at proportional rates. Payment of licence duty in respect of motor cycles and private cars may be effected quarterly or yearly at the owners' option.

Visitors' licences, at the following rates, are payable in respect of privately owned motor cars and motor cycles belonging to persons on temporary visits to the Colony not exceeding three months:

Private cars	...	...	Rs 10 per month irrespective of H.P.
Motor cycles	...	...	Rs 2 per month irrespective of H.P.

No licence fee is charged on a private car or motor cycle for a short stay in the Colony not exceeding one week.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

The Posts and Telegraphs Department is responsible for the postal and telegraph services of the Colony and operates the Post Office Savings Bank. It also acts as an agent for a number of Government departments in so far as the collection of certain revenue and the making of certain payments are concerned. The Money Order Service is available for nearly all parts of the world, and the British Postal Order Service for most Commonwealth countries.

The main Post Office is in Port Louis. There are besides 33 post offices and 41 postal agencies spread throughout the Island and all classes of postal and telegraph business are transacted. Postal facilities are also available in Rodrigues.

Air mail connection with all parts of the world is maintained by means of the services operated by *Air France*, *Qantas Empire Airways* and *South African Airways*.

Air mail postage rates are charged on weight units of 5 grammes. The air mail postage rate to Europe and to India and Pakistan, the principal destinations of the Colony's outward correspondence, is 60 cents for 5 grammes. The Aerogramme or Air Letter Service operates to all destinations at the uniform rate of 35 cents.

The number of postal items handled during 1957 was approximately as follows:

Air mail	...	...	2,274,850
Overseas surface mail	...	...	674,970
Inland mail	...	...	4,888,630

Mauritius is linked to the rest of the world by cables and by radio installations which are operated and maintained by Cable and Wireless Limited. The Company has an office, a cable station and a radio station in Port Louis, and a cable station and an emergency radio installation in Rodrigues. The major part of the foreign telegraph traffic concerns Port Louis and outward and inward telegrams from or for the Capital are accepted, for transmission or delivery, direct by Cable and Wireless Limited. Elsewhere foreign telegrams are received at post offices and transmitted over land lines operated by the Posts and Telegraphs Department to the

General Post Office in Port Louis, for outward transmission by Cable and Wireless: inward telegrams received by Cable and Wireless Limited are similarly transmitted by the General Post Office over the land lines to post offices for delivery.

There are 210 miles of inland telegraph lines and the number of inland telegrams handled during 1957 was 14,940 as compared with 13,165 during 1956.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The functions of the Telecommunications Department which replaces the former Electricity and Telephones Department may be briefly summarised as follows:

- (a) operation of the public telephone system;
- (b) maintenance of the public telegraph service on behalf of the Posts and Telegraphs Department;
- (c) enforcement of the provisions of the Radio-Communication Ordinance (Cap. 96);
- (d) control of radio licences and collection of licence fees;
- (e) operation of the ship-to-shore W/T service and the reception and transmission of meteorological traffic on behalf of the Observatory;
- (f) installation and maintenance of radio equipment in Government buildings;
- (g) installation and maintenance of electric lighting and power services in Government buildings, including hospitals and the Government Railways;
- (h) installation and maintenance of telephones and telegraphs on behalf of the Railway Department.

There are 14 telephone exchanges in the Island, of which four (those serving Port Louis, Rose Hill, Vacoas and Curepipe) are manual and the remainder automatic. The automatic exchanges are situated at Rose Belle, Souillac, Rivière des Anguilles, Mahebourg, Pamplemousses, Long Mountain, Flacq, Moka, Pailles and Quartier Militaire. New automatic exchange units have been ordered for installation at Chemin Grenier, Camp Diable, L'Escalier, Plaine Magnien, Rivière du Rempart and Mapou. A new automatic exchange for Rose Hill is provided for in the Colony's Capital Expenditure Programme.

At the close of the year there were 5,602 exchange lines, 10,850 miles of telephone wire and 7,690 telephone stations in service. The number of effective telephone calls handled during 1957 amounted to 6,996,755 as compared with 6,701,594 during 1956.

In order to meet the increased demand for telephone services within the township areas, additional underground telephone subscribers' cables have been laid and development studies have been made for the provision of other telephone cable facilities in other areas.

In order to provide more junction facilities and to improve the standard of service, an underground telephone junction cable linking Curepipe to Mahebourg is being laid. Cables have been received to link Rose Belle to Chemin Grenier *via* Rivière des Anguilles and Souillac and also to link l'Escalier to Plaine Magnien on the main cable from Curepipe to Mahebourg. When these connections have been completed and the automatic exchange units installed, the South of the Island will have the means of efficient and speedy telephone communications.

The ship-to-shore radio station at Vacoas keeps a 24-hour watch on the maritime distress frequency and also provides communications with ships at sea within a radius varying between 600 and 1,200 miles of Mauritius according to atmospheric conditions. The station handled 9,627 radiotelegrams during 1957 as compared with 8,805 during 1956.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Government Information Office and Films

THE PRESS

The history of the press in Mauritius has been traced as far back as 1773. One of the existing daily newspapers has had an uninterrupted existence of over 125 years and another one of 49 years. The languages used are French, English, Hindi and Chinese.

The following is a list of newspapers published in Mauritius:

DAILY	WEEKLY
<i>Action</i>	<i>Aryoday</i>
<i>Advance</i>	<i>L'Épée</i>
<i>China Times</i>	<i>Mauritius Times</i>
<i>Chinese Daily News</i>	<i>La Vie Catholique</i>
<i>New Chinese Commercial Paper</i>	<i>La Dernière Heure</i>
<i>Le Cernéen</i>	<i>J.O. et Tribune Libre</i>
<i>Le Mauricien</i>	
<i>The New Era</i>	
	FORTNIGHTLY
	<i>Le Progrès Islamique</i>
	<i>La Voix de l'Islam</i>
	<i>Zamana</i>
	<i>Mazdur</i>
TWICE WEEKLY	
<i>Janata</i>	

Many periodicals of general interest are also published.

BROADCASTING

Before the Second World War broadcasting in Mauritius was by a private commercial concern. During the war there were three stations in the Island, all partially or wholly controlled by the Government. In 1944 the Government decided to assume sole responsibility for broadcasting in the Colony and set up its own organization, "The Mauritius Broadcasting Service", which broadcasts material of a non-commercial nature.

Since 1944 the number of radio licences has increased from 2,746 to 25,845, of which 2,491 were in respect of new radio sets licensed in 1957.

In 1956-57 the recurrent expenditure of the Mauritius Broadcasting Service amounted to Rs 331,458 as compared with total revenue of Rs 301,519 derived from wireless licences.

The implementation of a scheme for the technical improvement of the Mauritius Broadcasting Service is being financed partly from local funds and partly from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. By the end of the financial year Rs 211,274 had been spent on a transmitter building and on the purchase of new equipment.

The Mauritius Broadcasting Service owns a $1\frac{1}{2}$ Kw short wave transmitter and a 5 Kw medium wave transmitter broadcasting on 19.88 metres and 220 metres respectively, both of which are located at Forest Side in the district of Plaines Wilhems in a building which also houses the studios, the news service organization and the administrative section.

The Mauritius Broadcasting Service goes on the air for an average of $57\frac{1}{2}$ hours a week in four daily transmissions in the course of which English, French, Hindustani and two Chinese dialects are spoken. It also broadcasts token programmes in Tamil, Hindi, Urdu, Telegu, Gujrati, Marathi and Swahili.

Owing to lack of local professional artists, the programmes are mainly made up of recorded music and of transcription recordings from the British Broadcasting Corporation and the *Radiodiffusion et Télévision Française*. The evening transmissions, however, include a fair proportion of 'live' items. Six news bulletins—one in English, four in French and one in Hindustani—covering a total of one hour are broadcast daily.

The Education Department broadcasts weekly during term-time five programmes of 15 minutes duration each.

The Globe Reuter News Service is monitored by the Mauritius Broadcasting Service which distributes daily 133 duplicated copies of world news to the local press, Government departments and the Garrison.

INFORMATION SERVICES

The Information Officer keeps the public informed of the activities and policies of Government through the press, the broadcasting service and the mobile cinema units, with the object of bringing about a closer association between Government and the public. The volume of information conveyed to the newspapers has increased. Besides the communiqués and press releases which are readily accepted for publication, news items are telephoned every day to the newspapers. The number of notices and press releases issued by the Information Office in 1957 reached 780. Payment for 322 was claimed by the press at the special rate agreed upon and the remaining 458 were published free of charge. Statements on important measures and changes in policy are broadcast over the Mauritius Broadcasting Service and are also given over the loud-speakers of the mobile cinema units. Complementary to the public address equipment of the mobile cinema units is the tape recorder which was received during the year. Advantages was taken of these

facilities for explaining the terms of reference of the Mauritius Electoral Boundary Commission and those of the Police Commission of Enquiry to the people in urban and rural areas and for supporting the campaigns organised in connection with anti-polio vaccination, whooping cough vaccination and the Asian influenza epidemic. The public address equipment was also used for enlisting the co-operation of the people in the tuberculosis survey which is being carried out by a World Health Organisation team.

On the introduction of the Ministerial system, a press conference was held by the Colonial Secretary to explain its operation. Several press conferences were held subsequently by the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Minister of Labour. Heads of department took the opportunity of press conferences to explain some new activities of their departments.

Numerous visitors from overseas who called at the Information Office were put in touch with officials and other personalities.

The principal routine services performed by the office are the preparation of a daily report on the local press, a weekly summary of leading articles and other important items and the operation of a press cutting service for heads of department. It is also the responsibility of the office to prepare a monthly news bulletin for Mauritian students in Great Britain: 85 copies are sent to the Mauritian Students' Unit, London, which undertakes their distribution. Increased use was made of the translation facilities available at the office. Books, pamphlets, periodicals, photographs and publicity material were distributed to public libraries, schools and village councils.

A third edition of the leaflet on Mauritius was published. Its contents had been expanded so as to give a more comprehensive picture of Mauritius to overseas and local institutions and to persons interested in the Island's development. A large number of copies was sent to the Imperial Institute for issue to schools in England.

Apart from the leaflet, the office initiated the publication of a small visitor's guide. Its distribution was effected on request from tourists and intending visitors and through local and overseas shipping and air agencies.

Ten thousand copies of a colour map of Mauritius were also produced for the office.

New accessions to the photograph library brought to over 800 the number of prints, each with an appropriate caption, which were available to both the local and overseas press. Forty-two clichés made from news photographs appeared in the four main dailies,

Photographic features recording developments in Mauritius were reproduced by "New Commonwealth", "Today" and "The West Australian". A hundred prints were sent to the Imperial Institute for inclusion in a film strip on Mauritius and other photographs were used by the Central Office of Information for a photo-poster on the Royal Visit to Mauritius and East Africa.

Other activities of the Information Office include the revision of the sections devoted to Mauritius in reference books and contributions to the overseas press.

FILMS

Attending the cinema is one of the most popular recreations in Mauritius and films are consequently an effective instrument for reaching the people in rural areas. The shows given by the mobile cinema units of the Information Office were attended by an audience estimated at more than two hundred and fifty thousand. According to information compiled by the office, annual attendances at shows in the commercial cinemas was around 3,700,000. Most of the more important villages now have a local cinema hall.

The circulation of 16mm films among schools, clubs, associations as well as owners of projectors increased appreciably. 2,000 films were issued on loan free of charge. This figure bears witness to the popularity of the film loan service.

The distribution of the 35mm version of "British News" is the concern of the Information Office. The three main cinema companies receive one copy of each issue for which they pay a hire fee. Documentary films supplied by the Central Office of Information are circulated free of charge to the cinema companies.

Chapter 13: Local Forces

THE MAURITIUS GARRISON

The final stage in the run-down of the Garrison was completed on the 28th February when 1 (Mauritius) Coast Battery RA was disbanded. The four saluting guns have been taken over by 26th Bn. The King's African Rifles, the Garrison Battalion, who are now responsible for the firing of salutes. The Flag Station has been transferred to Fort William and has become the responsibility of the Harbour Master. Fort George has been vacated.

During the first six months of the year, due to the closing of the Suez Canal, several troopships called at Mauritius in transit to and from the Far East.

On the 1st July the Garrison came under control of the East Africa Land Forces Organisation. The Commander-in-Chief, Lieutenant-General Sir Gerald Lathbury, relinquished his appointment at that time and Major General N. P. H Tapp assumed the post of General Officer Commanding East Africa Command. Both paid visits during the year.

26th Bn. The King's African Rifles has mounted several Guards of Honour on ceremonial occasions and to welcome distinguished visitors; parades were held to celebrate the Queen's Birthday, Bastille Day and Remembrance Sunday. The Corps of Drums has performed the ceremony of Beating The Retreat at various functions throughout the Island.

MAURITIUS NAVAL VOLUNTEER FORCE

The Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force completed its eighth year of service on the 30th September, 1957.

On the 31st December, 1957, the Force consisted of the Commanding Officer and two Chief Petty Officer Instructors, three R.N.V.R. Officers, eleven non-continuous service ratings, and fifty-seven volunteer ratings.

Selection Boards for entry into the Force have been held every three months; of 140 applicants interviewed during the year, 67 were accepted for the three months' new entry courses; only 36 were accepted for final enrolment for three years' service. Although 14 volunteer ratings discharged from the Force during 1957, including two who left Mauritius to take up employment in the United Kingdom, the strength of the Force increased by 15 enrolled volunteers.

Voluntary drills were held as usual every Monday and Friday evening at Headquarters and were very well attended. With the return from overseas leave of the Chief Petty Officer Telegraphis in September specialised instruction in wireless was resumed and proved popular. Early in the year a mechanical training course was also started, but had to be abandoned after some months owing to the inability of the volunteer instructional officer to attend regularly.

All-day sea training, which is carried out twice a week, has proved popular but is limited to those volunteer ratings whose civilian employment allows them to take part during the week. Shorter periods of sea training are also included during evening drill periods for those who cannot get away at other times.

The 14-days' period of Continuous Training, which took place at Cannoniers Point between the 18th and 31st October inclusive, was attended by the record number of 74 ratings. His Excellency the Governor inspected the Force, as well as M.F.V. 189 and *Sambur*, on 30th October and also presented the prizes won for shooting, boat pulling and swimming competitions held during the period of Annual Training.

The Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station, visited Port Louis in his flagship H.M.S. *Ceylon* between the 9th and 15th July, and on the 12th July carried out his annual inspection of the Force at Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force Headquarters, all officers and ratings being present. After a march-post the Vice-Admiral addressed the Ship's Company and expressed his satisfaction.

The Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force provided a ceremonial platoon of 30 ratings for the combined Queen's Birthday parade at Line Barracks on the 13th June, and a similar ceremonial platoon for the Remembrance Sunday parade at the War Memorial at Curepipe on the 10th November.

Chapter 14: General

THE MAURITIUS INSTITUTE

The Mauritius Institute traces its origin to the year 1880 when an Ordinance was passed "to establish and incorporate a Public Institute, to be called the Mauritius Institute, a Public Museum and a Public Library, for the purposes of promoting the general study and cultivation of the various branches and departments of Arts, Science, Literature and Philosophy, and for the instruction and recreation of the people".

The foundation stone of the present building was laid on the 23rd November, 1880, by Sir George Bowen, then Governor. The building was completed in 1884 and in the course of the following year the Natural History Museum, known as the "Desjardins Museum", until then housed in a wing of the Royal College in Port Louis, was transferred to the new building. The public library was opened in 1903, following the munificent bequest of the Sir Virgile Naz Library which forms the nucleus of the present collection. The Institute has expanded its activities over the years and to-day it comprises a Public Library, a Natural History Museum, an Historical Museum, and a small Art Gallery.

The Institute is managed by a Board of Directors consisting of eight members appointed annually by the Governor and of such persons as may be recommended by any literary or scientific society associated with the Institute. The staff consists of a Director, a Librarian, a Curator, and eight other officers.

The Public Library

The Mauritius Institute Public Library is free to readers, but a deposit of Rs 10 is required from borrowers. The stock of about 50,000 volumes comprises an almost equal number of French and English fiction and non-fiction books and a small percentage of Oriental books. A large variety of periodicals are also received at regular intervals and placed at the disposal of readers.

The library has a valuable collection of Mauritian and a reference section on the natural history of the Mascarene islands and the neighbouring regions. The library of the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius forms part of this section.

Several changes and improvements have been made in the library generally. The number of registered borrowers has increased from about 200 in 1945 to nearly 1,500 in 1957, while the number of visits of readers who frequented the library during the year was of the order of 32,000.

The Natural History Museum

The Natural History Museum is mainly regional in character and contains representative collections of the fauna, flora and geology of Mauritius and of the neighbouring islands. The Museum, which had been closed for several years on account of structural alterations to the building and a re-arrangement of the exhibits, was re-opened to the public in March.

The bird section contains specimens of most of the one hundred species of the birds of Mauritius. They have been grouped as shore birds, marsh birds, sea birds, game birds and land birds. The endemic species, of which nine are still found out of a total of twenty-four, are displayed separately. The extinct species are shown by means of feathered restorations and paintings, and in some cases by actual skeletons. The Dodo is exhibited together with its relatives which inhabited the neighbouring islands of Réunion and Rodrigues. The species which was found in Réunion was known as the "White Dodo"; it is known only from historical evidence and by a 17th century painting, a reproduction of which is exhibited in the Museum. The Rodrigues *Solitaire* is exemplified by a genuine skeleton and by a water-colour reproduction of the feathered bird. The Museum also possesses the only known skeleton of the Mauritius flightless Red Hen (*Aphanapteryx bonasia*) and one of the three stuffed examples of the Mauritius Dutch Pigeon (*Alectroenas nitidissima*), a species which became extinct about one hundred years ago.

In the mammal section are found examples of the very few species occurring in the Island which, with the exception of bats, have all been introduced by man at various times. These include the Javanese Deer imported by the Dutch, a Borneo Macaque released in the Island by the Portuguese, the Wild Pig and the Indian Hare.

In the reptile section are exhibited examples of the giant species of tortoises, extinct or still living, peculiar to the Indian Ocean islands, and of various kinds of turtles found in the region. The geckos, lizards and snakes of the Island are exhibited, including the very curious Round Island snakes, two species of which are found and are considered to be "living fossils."

The fish section displays examples of the numerous species found in the territorial waters of the Island, all of them stuffed and painted in their natural colours. Fresh-water fishes, comprising about twenty-five species, some indigenous, others introduced, are also exhibited.

A large number of Echinoderms (sea-stars and urchins) live in the region and examples of nearly all the species, including a few almost unique ones, are represented in the Museum.

The mollusca section has a rich collection and the Island is reputed for its extremely large variety of sea-shells, though most of these occur as well in all the Indo-Pacific region. The land shell fauna, comprising about two hundred species, is less spectacular but is scientifically more important, as many groups are peculiar to the Island. The fresh-water mollusca are insignificant, except from a medical point of view, one species being known to transmit a serious disease.

The Museum also possesses local collections of crustaceans, insects, corals and plants.

Biological Research

The very interesting remnants of the indigenous land fauna and flora, together with the rich marine life of the surrounding seas present excellent opportunities for biological research. Scientific collections of all groups are made and these are studied overseas and locally by experts, the results being published in the Mauritius Institute Bulletin and in specialized publications abroad.

Art Gallery

A small art gallery is attached to the Port Louis Museum, consisting mainly of a collection of paintings presented to the Institute in 1921 by the late Mr. Edgar de Rochecouste. This collection includes a certain number of paintings of well-known artists, such as Ziem, Le Sidaner, Harpignies, and Jacques-Emile Blanche. A small section is devoted to the works of local artists.

The Historical Museum

A subsidiary museum devoted to local history has been opened in an old French house at Mahébourg recently acquired by Government. It was in this house that Monsieur de Robillard, the French Commandant of Grand Port, received the two wounded commanders of the English and French squadrons, Admirals Willoughby and Duperré, during the well-known naval battle of August, 1810. Several objects connected with this episode and recovered one hundred and twenty-four years later from the wreck of the *Magicienne*, one of the English frigates sunk in Grand Port bay during the engagement, are exhibited. These objects include a portion of the ship's hulk, several heavy guns and carronades, cannon balls, grape-shot, copper coins, pieces of sailor's uniform and various other relics.

The capture of the Island by the British at the beginning of December, 1810, is illustrated by a series of coloured prints drawn on the spot by Temple.

A section of the museum is devoted to the display of a valuable collection of maps, charts, engravings and watercolours (many in original) which serve to introduce the visitor to the various periods of the history of Mauritius from its discovery to the present time. Worthy of special mention in this section are a portulan map published at Amsterdam in 1595 (probably the most accurate map of the region available at the time of the first Dutch visit to Mauritius in 1590), an English map of Mauritius by Mount and Page published in 1745 and derived from a Dutch source, Abbé de la Caille's map (1753) which is the first accurate map of the Island, Bellin's map of 1763, and two maps by Lislet Geoffroy, published by the British Admiralty in 1813 and 1814. Modern maps are also shown, including the fine one-inch map by Descubes (1880) which is of great practical interest as it indicates the site of over a thousand concessions.

Among the series of lithographs and water-colours recording the life, scenery and customs of different periods may be noted six water-colours by Kelsey (early 1840's), coloured prints by Thuillier, coloured lithographs by Bradshaw and Rider (1831-32), water-colours by Leroy (1860's), and a water-colour panoramic view of Mauritius, sketched from Port Louis harbour by Augustus Earle who was on board the *Beagle* when Charles Darwin visited Mauritius in 1836.

A few pieces of local furniture belonging to the French Governor Mahé de Labourdonnais (1699-1753) and exhibits from the East Indiaman *Kent* which was captured by Robert Surcouf, *Roi des Corsaires*, in the Bay of Bengal in October, 1800, are on view.

Relics connected with the activities of the French privateers in the Indian Ocean at the beginning of the 19th century are also displayed.

Part of a room of the Museum is devoted to the history of transport in Mauritius exemplified by two *palanquins* and a *chaise à porteurs* which were in use before the era of roads and wheeled traffic.

A small exhibit is devoted to the history of the famous "Post Office" stamp of Mauritius (1847) and is illustrated by reprints of the stamp.

Among miscellaneous items of interest may be cited: maps and objects rescued from some memorable shipwrecks in the region, the portraits or busts of certain French and British Governors (Mahé de Labourdonnais, Charles Decaen, Robert Farquhar, Lowry Cole, John Pope Hennessy), and the Roll of Honour of the Mauritian soldiers who lost their lives in the Second World War.

Learned Societies

The following scientific and literary societies are associated with the Mauritius Institute:—

(1) *The Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius* was founded in 1829 under the name of *Société d'Histoire Naturelle* and was honoured in 1847 by the permission of Queen Victoria to add the word "Royal" to its name. Its activities extend to most branches of natural history. Lectures on science and art are delivered by its members from time to time and also by visiting professors, artists and scientists. Proceedings of the Society, containing papers read before the Society, are published annually. The Society owns a library which contains many rare and valuable books and periodicals on natural history.

(2) *The Société de Technologie Agricole et Sucrière de Maurice* is a technical body founded in 1910 and devoted to the study of questions relating to agriculture and to sugar technology. The papers and proceedings of the Society are published in the bi-monthly *Revue Agricole*.

(3) *The Société des Ecrivains Mauriciens* was founded in 1938 with the object of encouraging the publication of literary works, and of establishing contacts with literary institutions overseas.

(4) *The Indian Cultural Association* was founded in 1936 with the object of promoting Indian culture in Mauritius and of fostering spiritual ties with India. It publishes a quarterly journal called "The Indian Cultural Review".

(5) *The Société de l'Histoire de l'Île Maurice* was founded in 1938 to foster and encourage the study of the Colony's history by the collection of documents on local history, publication of historical works, and the organisation of historical exhibitions and lectures.

One of the principal activities of the Society has been the production of the Dictionary of Mauritian Biography, twenty-five parts of which have already appeared. These contain about one thousand biographies of persons connected with Mauritius by birth or residence.

The Society awards prizes to schoolchildren to encourage the study of Mauritian history. It keeps in touch and exchanges publications with overseas institutions of like interests.

THE MAURITIUS ARCHIVES

The Mauritius Archives Office is not only one of the oldest departments of the Colony, dating from the early years of the French settlement, but it is also one of the oldest archive centres of the Southern Hemisphere, ranking only after the Cape and Réunion repositories.

Under French rule the Office was a branch of the *Conseil Supérieur* and received special attention from the authorities. An early instance of the interest of the French Government in colonial archives is provided by the edict of 1770, which set up a central *Dépôt des Chartes des Colonies* at Versailles and enacted regulation for their better preservation. Another important measure was the establishment in Mauritius in 1808 of a *Dépôt des Cartes de la Marine* which for a long time supplied sailors and travellers in the South Indian Ocean with valuable information.

At the time of the land fighting which led to the surrender of the Island by the French, the local archives were removed from Port Louis to a safer place of custody in Plaines Wilhems and thus escaped damage. In 1815, after the final cession of Mauritius to Great Britain, they were handed over to the British authorities in an almost complete state, as comparatively few of the records were retained by the French Government.

Until 1949 the Archives were attached to the Registrar General's Department, and from January, 1950, to the Central Administration. By the Archives Ordinance (No. 71 of 1952) they were transferred to an Archives Department which is now the central repository of all public archives.

The Archives Office is now divided into the following sections:

- (i) the Repository, which comprises *inter alia* the records of the old French Administration (1721-1810), records of the British Administration (from 1810), notarial records, and private records;
- (ii) the Library, which, besides being the official registry of all publications issued in Mauritius, contains Mauritiana printed abroad, reference books on general history, colonial history and archivology with a section devoted to collections of stamps, seals, currency notes and other materials;
- (iii) the Land Registry, which comprises the records of the former Land Court, memoranda of survey deposited by sworn land surveyors, with a section containing maps, charts and plans.

The Department is also equipped with a photostat and a duostat for the photocopying of records and the supply of copies to Government departments and to the public.

The control and disposal of records is supervised by the Public Archives Records Destruction Committee. The Chief Archivist also inspects regularly archives in the custody of agencies other than the main repository.

Publications include the annual report, the quarterly *Memo-randa* of books and periodicals issued in Mauritius and registered in the Archives, and the publications issued by the Archives Publication Fund Committee (established in 1951).

The bibliographical survey of Mauritiana started in 1951 was completed in February, 1955. The book, including about 1,000 pages and comprising altogether 8,865 entries, was published in 1956 under the title of *Bibliography of Mauritius, 1502-1954*. It was compiled with particular attention to historical development and with the main object of meeting the needs of those interested in history. To keep it up to date it is proposed to issue every year, as an appendix to the *Annual Report of the Archives Department*, a bibliographical supplement including additional material recorded during each successive year from 1955 onwards. The first two supplements have already appeared.

Former publications of the Mauritius Archives Publication Fund comprise an Atlas-Souvenir to commemorate the work of Abbé de la Caille in Mauritius, a selection of documents on early American trade with Mauritius and the *Répertoire des Archives de l'Île de France pendant la régie de la Compagnie des Indes (1715-1768)*.

In 1957 no publication was issued but the Committee selected for publication next year a study of Mauritius and the spice trade.

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

The British Council Centre in Rose Hill had a profitable year. At the 31st December, 1957, the total number of members of the Centre was 842 adults and 2,030 students. The Library continued to be well used and 1,450 volumes were borrowed during the last quarter of the year. The progress of the Council's work was also seen in the expansion of other cultural activities through which British achievements were made known and interpreted to Mauritians living in all parts of the Island. This programme was carried by means of lectures, film shows, study groups and vacation courses and covered a very wide range of subjects including the

technique of English teaching, local government, vocational guidance as well as english literature and the arts. The welfare of students leaving Mauritius for higher studies in the United Kingdom has long been a Council responsibility and this year as before the Introduction Course was provided for 50 scholars before their departure from Mauritius.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL AND CULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS

British Medical Association, Mauritius Branch

A branch of the British Medical Association was founded in 1939. Membership is granted to all medical practitioners who have qualified for registration in Mauritius, including those holding French qualifications. The Branch represents the majority of the doctors in the Island and close collaboration is maintained between Government and the profession. The Branch is frequently consulted by the Government.

Le Cercle Littéraire de Port Louis

The principal object of this Society is to seek to bring together all those interested in French culture and ideas. Its aims are to encourage, by means of annual competitions and public lectures, the study of the French language and literature. A review, *L'Essor*, is published by this Society.

Alliance Française

The Mauritius Branch of the Alliance Française was founded in 1884 with the object of encouraging the study of the French language by means of French courses in schools and annual examinations as well as meetings and conferences on French literature and art.

Mauritius Dramatic Club

The first record of an organised amateur theatrical production in Mauritius goes back as far as the 25th April, 1848, when officers of the 5th Battalion, the Northumberland Fusiliers, staged three one-act plays at the Port Louis Theatre.

A Mauritius Amateur Dramatic Club was formed in 1898 and stage productions and play readings were regularly featured until the 1914-1918 War.

The present Mauritius Dramatic Club owes its origin to a revival in theatrical activity which began in early 1920 and which ultimately led to the formation of the Club in 1932. Since then stage plays, play readings and broadcasts have been frequently presented.

The Vacoas House of Debaters

This association, founded in 1936, takes a special interest in general educational and cultural development.

Fortnightly meetings are held for debates and plays, and occasional radio programmes are presented on the Mauritius Broadcasting Service. Lectures by eminent outside personalities are delivered from time to time.

A Scholarship Fund, authorized by Government, provides for the educational needs of pupil-members taking a secondary course of studies. A girls' section was started in January, 1952, for the benefit of girls of 12 and upwards.

Tennis volley ball, table-tennis, outings, open air camping are some of the recreational activities.

The Mental and Physical Culture Association

The principal aims of this Association are to encourage the study of the English language and literature and to assist its members to obtain facilities for enjoying sports such as tennis and football.

The Hindi Pracharini Sabha

This society was established in 1935 with headquarters at Montagne Longue. Its main object is to promote and encourage the study of Hindi in Mauritius. Seventy-six Hindi Schools are at present affiliated to it. Efforts are being made to produce a uniform curriculum in all Hindi schools, to improve the standard of teaching, and to foster the study of Hindi language and literature. Two annual examinations in Higher Hindi are conducted with the collaboration of the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Allahabad, India.

The Young Men's Christian Association

The Mauritius Y.M.C.A. was founded in collaboration with the London Central Y.M.C.A. and inaugurated in August, 1952. It is also a member of the World Council of Y.M.C.A..

The P.E.N. Club de l'Océan Indien

The Mauritius section of the "Fédération Internationale des P.E.N. Clubs" was founded in Mauritius in 1951. It seeks to promote a spirit of understanding and friendship among the writers of all sections of the community and also among those of the neighbouring islands.

The English Association

Founded in 1946, the English Association is the outcome of a movement started by a group of English and Mauritian ladies and gentlemen with the primary object of helping Mauritian secondary school-children who were learning English to a better knowledge of the tongue and to a fuller acquaintance with English literature and culture. These school-children, usually weak in spoken English through lack of practice, were above all to be given opportunities of speaking English and of hearing it spoken by English people.

The Association, which has a membership of about 60 and works in close co-operation with the British Council, tries to achieve its aims by engaging in as many activities as possible likely to be of assistance to students of English language and literature. Film shows, dramatic performances, and broadcasts in English are arranged for school children and essay-writing competitions are held. Above all, annual competitions in elocution, acting and choral singing are held and the prize-winners take part in a public recital. The number of schools taking part in these competitions is steadily increasing.

The Association has since its foundation been honoured with the patronage of the Governors of the Colony, its first Patron having been Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

GEOGRAPHY

Mauritius is an island extending over an area of approximately 720 square miles and situated in the Indian Ocean between 19° 58' and 20° 32' South Latitude and the meridians of 57° 17' and 57° 46' East Longitude. It is almost surrounded by a fringing coral reef. The northern part of the Island is a fairly flat plain which rises gently towards the central plateau. Elsewhere the coastal plain is narrow and the ascent to the central plateau abrupt. Bordering the central plateau there are three main mountain ranges with rocky peaks, the highest of which is 2,711 feet. Apart from these ranges, there are many other isolated hills and peaks. There are numerous small rivers throughout the Island, the longest being about 25 miles. Most of the rivers are short and fast-flowing owing to the steepness of the slope from the central plateau to the sea. Waterfalls are not uncommon in Mauritius and some of the larger have been harnessed to supply hydro-electric power. There are only two natural lakes, Grand Bassin and Bassin Blanc. Five reservoirs supply water for domestic use, irrigation and hydro-electric purposes.

Mauritius is one of the most thickly populated countries in the world; its 720 square miles carry a population of 596,600 i.e., about 815 inhabitants per square mile—a staggering figure for an agricultural country. The population of the main towns is as follows:

Port Louis	...	...	...	82,900
Curepipe	...	...	...	26,250
Quatre Bornes	...	...	...	20,950
Rose Hill—Beau Bassin	...	...	...	33,600

The chief industry is sugar production and sugarcane fields may be seen all over the Island. From the hill tops the ground looks like an immense green lawn, regularly intersected by silver-grey and black ribbons of roads. Remnants of the native forests of the Island cover a total area of some 15,000 acres: they are to be found in the mountainous and less accessible regions. The Forest Department is actively replanting with exotic tree species—principally Pines, Eucalyptus, Camphor, Juniper, and Araucarias—those areas where secondary scrub forest has replaced native forests which were cleared many years ago in the process of extending sugarcane cultivation. All round the coast there is a fringe of either casuarina (" filaos ") or coconut trees.

The Colony is comparatively isolated in the Indian Ocean 500 miles east of Madagascar. Strategically, it is placed at the crossing of the sea routes linking Australia, India and the East Indies with South Africa. Ships *en route* from the Far East to South Africa call regularly at Mauritius, as do the French ships serving Réunion.

Mauritius has a number of island dependencies in the Indian Ocean. These are Rodrigues (350 miles to the east), Chagos Archipelago (1,180 miles north-east in the direction of Ceylon), Agalega and Cargados Carajos (580 miles and 250 miles respectively north of Mauritius).

Rodrigues,* the principal dependency, is a mountainous island of volcanic formation encircled by a coral reef and has a total area of about 40 square miles. It measures $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length by $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles in width and has a population of about 16,535 inhabitants, mostly fishermen and small cultivators.

Chagos* consists of five groups of coral islands, the biggest of which is Diego Garcia. The horseshoe-shaped ribbon of land lying just above sea-level, surrounds a lagoon thirteen miles long and between four and five miles wide. Diego Garcia was of strategic importance during the second World War.

Agalega* consists of two small islands, separated by a narrow strip of sandbank. This dependency is the main source of copra for the edible oil industry of Mauritius.

The archipelago of Cargados Carajos,* usually referred to by the name of the principal islet. St. Brandon, is a fishing station leased to a Mauritian company. At present the fish taken in the waters of St. Brandon are dried and salted for export to Mauritius.

CLIMATE

Mauritius lies just within the tropics, but it is a small land mass without any large land area in its vicinity. It has, therefore, a maritime climate, tropical maritimes during summer and sub-tropical in winter. This differs appreciably from the climate of a place on the same latitude on a large continent. Very high temperatures are not experienced in summer nor particularly low ones in winter. Except in localities at or near sea-level, especially along the north-west coast and during occasional dry spells, rainfall is sufficient to maintain a green cover of vegetation throughout the year. On the other hand, owing to the high relative humidity, there are periods in summer, particularly if there is little or no wind, when considerable physical discomfort is felt, especially at or near sea-level, even though the temperatures are not extremely high. On the central

*See Map at the end of Report.

plateau, which is between 1,000 and 2,000 feet above sea-level, it is comparatively cool almost all the year round. Heavy rains fall in summer, though there is no regular rainy season. In winter, it is cold and wet on the higher parts but cool round the coast. During this period there is a general exodus to the seaside. The bathing beaches with their white coral sand are calm, safe lagoons for bathing, fishing, swimming and boating are attractive and have been favourably compared by travellers with the well-known tourist resorts of Hawaii and other Pacific islands.

The following is a summary of the main climatological features.

Seasons

The year can be divided approximately into two seasons: summer, from November to April, and winter, from May to October, though the months April to June and September to October can be looked upon as transitional periods. The driest period, from September to November, is probably the most pleasant part of the year in all parts of the Island.

Rainfall

The average annual rainfall, at or near sea-level, is 50 inches or less, the minimum being about 30 inches in the western and north-western coastal areas. The amount increases steadily with altitude, and reaches nearly 200 inches on the highest part of the central plateau, at about 2,000 feet above sea-level.

Summer rainfall produces by far the larger proportion of the total for the year and has three main sources. The first, very common in late November and in December, comes from instability showers or "convictional" rain falling in the early afternoon in calm, or nearly calm weather. The second is associated with generally cloudy weather in troughs of low pressure. The third comes from tropical cyclones which, if at a distance from the Island, often give beneficial rain without destructive wind force but which cause much damage and very excessive rainfall if passing over or near to the Island.

Winter rainfall is mostly of an orographic nature, produced by the lifting and cooling of the trade wind stream as it passes over the Island. It is in the form of light rain or drizzle, most of which falls over the central high ground, particularly on the south-eastern side.

True droughts are rare, except near sea-level, but the very large deficiencies which occur from time to time, more often in early summer, are particularly important during the season of rapid growth of the sugarcane from December to April.

Temperatures

The mean temperature varies from 74°F at sea-level to 67°F. at 2,000 feet, and the mean annual range is 11°F. The highest and lowest values recorded at the Observatory, Pamplemousses, at an altitude of 180 feet, are 94.8°F and 49.9°F respectively, and the minimum at 1,850 feet is 44.9°F. The mean daily range is 13.5°F.

Humidity

The mean monthly relative humidity increases from about 70 per cent near sea-level in October and November to nearly 90 per cent at 1,850 feet in March. One hundred per cent humidity is quite frequently attained on the highest parts of the plateau and occasionally near sea-level. The lowest value recorded at the Observatory, Pamplemousses, is 33 per cent. The mean daily range varies from 19 per cent in April to 31 per cent in November at 180 feet.

Sunshine

The average number of hours per day of bright sunshine is 7.8 at 180 feet and 7.0 at 1,400 feet. October to December are the months with most sunshine.

Winds

During the winter months, with only occasional interruptions due to low pressure south of Mauritius, the Island experiences steady south-east to east-south-east trade winds of moderate strength. Occasionally they become fairly strong for a day or two but do not reach gale force.

In summer the trades are normally of light to moderate force from the east or east-north-east and interruptions are much more frequent. When these interruptions are due to low pressure to the west or south the winds become northerly or westerly and are very humid and rather warm; when due to a tropical cyclone they may come from any direction and be of any force up to hurricane strength.

Tropical Cyclones

The Island is in the region of tropical cyclones of the South Indian Ocean. These are occasionally very severe, causing widespread destruction to crops, trees and buildings, and sometimes loss of life. Fortunately, visitations of this catastrophic nature are relatively infrequent.

Cyclones occur during the summer season, usually between November and May, but they have been known to affect Mauritius slightly, on rare occasions, in September and October. The greatest

frequency of occurrence is in January and February but March is also an important month as cyclones occurring then damage the more fully grown sugarcane crop to a greater extent.

Over the period for which data are available, nearly 100 years, cyclones have caused winds with gust speeds reaching about 100 miles per hour on two or three occasions and gust speeds reaching 60 miles per hour on about thirty occasions. The highest wind speeds so far recorded were in April, 1892, when the average wind speed over a whole hour reached 76 miles per hour and gust speeds were estimated at 114 miles per hour. The winds near the centre of a tropical cyclone are extremely gusty and this, as well as the torrential rain that occurs, adds very considerably to the damage caused to the weaker buildings and to the summer vegetation which is in its most luxuriant state.

The distribution of cyclones over the years is very irregular. It is possible, as in 1945, for the Island to be struck by two destructive cyclones in a matter of weeks: on the other hand periods of 5 years and more sometimes occur with no gale winds. This year was the eleventh in succession in which no damage was caused by cyclones: the length of this period of freedom from such catastrophes has never been equalled in the past 100 years.

Chapter 2: History

The Island was probably visited both by Arab sailors and by Malays during the Middle Ages, and on maps of about 1500 it is shown with an Arabic name. During the early sixteenth century Portuguese sailors visited it several times, and the first European to discover Mauritius is believed to have been Domingos Fernandez. The Island appears on many sixteenth century maps with the Portuguese name of *Cerné* or *Cirné*.

Dutch sailors first visited the Island in 1598 and renamed it Mauritius, after their ruler Prince Maurice of Nassau; later they made frequent calls on their trading expeditions to the East Indies. First-hand accounts exist of these visits, and of visits by English, French and Danish ships, which called at Mauritius for water, food and cargoes of ebony. An English trading company planned to occupy the Island but was forestalled in 1638 by a Dutch company, whose settlement lasted (with a gap from 1658 to 1664) until 1710. It was from Mauritius in 1642 that Tasman set out on his most important voyage of Australasian discovery.

The Dutch settlers never numbered much over three hundred (including children and slaves) and the most useful element was a group of twenty or thirty farmers, rearing cattle, hunting, fishing and growing food crops as well as some tobacco. But the settlement never developed enough to produce dividends and the Dutch company finally abandoned it in 1710. The most noteworthy results of this Dutch occupation were the exploitation of the Island's great ebony forests and the extinction of the Dodo, a bird peculiar to Mauritius, often mentioned by early seventeenth-century travellers. The Dutch are also to be remembered for the introduction of sugarcane, cotton, domestic animals and deer. Before the Dutch occupation the Island was uninhabited. The slaves introduced into Mauritius by the Dutch were brought from Madagascar.

The French in 1715 claimed the Island and called it *Ile de France*, but do not seem to have settled any of their surplus Bourbon colonists there until 1722. In the intervals European pirates from Madagascar and ships of the British Navy, searching for the pirates, were almost the only visitors.

From 1722 till about 1767 Mauritius was governed by the French East India Company. From 1767 to 1810 it was in charge of officials appointed by the French Government, apart from a brief period of independence under the Colonial Assembly during the French Revolution. In 1735 the population had grown to almost

one thousand, including two hundred Europeans, and from the time of the governorship of Mahé de Labourdonnais onwards increased rapidly, reaching nearly twenty thousand in 1767 (fifteen thousand of them slaves). Labourdonnais did more than any other Governor to change what was a petty outpost into a strong, prosperous and well populated colony. Much of the land was divided into concessions of approximately a quarter-mile by a mile, and most of these were farmed. Coffee, manioc, maize, vegetables, fruit, indigo, cloves and sugar were among the crops grown. There was some rearing of poultry, goats and cattle.

Towards the end of the Company's rule Port Louis, the capital, was a lair of speculators and adventurers desirous of returning to Europe as soon as they had made their fortunes. During the wars of the eighteenth century (Austrian Succession War, Seven Years War, and War of American Independence), the Island became a naval depot, supplying French fleets fighting the British in the Indian Ocean, and was the pivot of French schemes to drive the British out of their Indian trading settlements. It was also a port of call for several expeditions, notably that of Bougainville, and was described by many French travellers, of whom the best known is Bernardin de Saint Pierre, author of *Paul et Virginie*.

From 1767, under royal government, the population continued to increase, reaching thirty thousand in 1777, forty thousand in 1787, and nearly sixty thousand in 1797, including fifty thousand slaves from Madagascar and Africa. During the French Revolution the inhabitants of Mauritius set up a government virtually independent of France, because the property owners were resolved to defend their interests against the *Jacobins* and *sans culottes* and to resist the attempt made by the French revolutionary government to release the slaves. The Colonial Assembly organised successful and damaging raids on English commerce whenever England and France were at war. The raids continued while Decaen, one of Napoleon's generals, was Governor until in 1810 a strong British expedition, long planned and more than once postponed, was sent to capture the Island. A preliminary attack was foiled at Grand Port in August, 1810, but the main attack, launched in December of the same year with larger forces, was successful. Bourbon and Rodrigues were also occupied by the British in 1810, but by the Treaty of Paris in 1814 Bourbon was given back to France. Mauritius and its dependencies, including Rodrigues and the Seychelles, were then ceded definitely to Great Britain.

Many English officials were brought in, together with a large garrison of several regiments. By 1870 the garrison had been gradually reduced to half a battalion, which was still further reduced after 1914. Few English merchants and private persons have settled in Mauritius, whose European population has remained mainly French in language and sentiment although loyal to the British Crown. After 1825 the Island flourished, especially by the export of sugar to England, the crop increasing from 14,000 tons to 34,000 tons in the decade 1823-33. During these early years the English Government's policy of suppression of the slave trade and the consequent plans to free the slaves were opposed until a sum of two million pounds sterling had been paid to the slave owners as compensation for the loss of their slaves. To replace the freed slaves labourers were brought from India to work in the fields. The population, which in 1833 had reached a hundred thousand (three-quarters of them slaves), had by 1861 risen to three hundred thousand, nearly two hundred thousand of them being immigrants from India, most of whom remained to settle in Mauritius.

With the aid of immigrant labour, imported fertilizers, improved methods of agriculture and richer cane varieties, the sugar crop rose to 70,000 tons in 1853, 150,000 tons by 1900, and in 1956 reached the record figure of 571,848 tons. In the interest of the sugar industry, forests were cut down, labourers brought in, reservoir and irrigation schemes carried out, new government departments set up and technicians trained. As Joseph Conrad wrote: "First rate sugarcane is grown there. All the population lives for it and by it. Sugar is their daily bread."

Other industries were sporadically encouraged and usually neglected. After the slaves had been freed, much less food was grown locally and more was imported, especially rice from India. This became the staple food of the population and remained so, except in the 1939-45 war when rice supplies from Burma and India were cut off and imported flour and local crops had to be used as substitutes. When boom prices were being paid for sugar after the 1914-18 war, various minor industries including tea, brick and tile manufacture, tobacco, aloe fibre bags and a government dairy were developed.

One side of Mauritian history is concerned with cyclones, epidemics and crop pests, which from time to time have upset the economy of the island. In the eighteen-fifties there were epidemics of cholera and in the eighteen-sixties five years of epidemic malaria which caused in 1867 the death of 20,000 people in Port Louis alone

and the mass migration of thousands of persons, including almost all the well-to-do, from Port Louis and the coastal districts to the higher, healthier parts of Plaines Wilhems. Curepipe, a scattered village in 1865, was by 1895 large enough to have a town board, nominated annually by the Governor, and by 1952 was a town of over 23,000 people. The district of Plaines Wilhems, which in 1851 had 14,000 inhabitants, grew to 75,000 in 1921 and 177,341 in 1957. The cyclone of 1892, in which 1,200 persons were killed; the epidemic of sura in 1902, which killed off all the draught oxen and caused sugar estates hurriedly to import light railways; bubonic plague in 1899; the *Phytalus Smithi* beetle, which in 1911 was found to be attacking the sugarcane; the 1919 epidemic of influenza; the spread of malaria during the nineteen-thirties into the hills and higher districts; and, finally, three cyclones and a serious outbreak of poliomyelitis in 1945, are some of the greater misfortunes woven into the pattern of the Island's history.

When sugar prices were high and the Island was prosperous, living conditions were improved in various ways. The sanitation of Port Louis was improved in the eighteen-nineties after long discussion. Sir Ronald Ross's visit in 1908 led to useful anti-malarial work during the next twenty years. Reservoirs at Mare-aux-Vacoas (1893-95), La Ferme (1918), La Nicolière (1924) and Piton du Milieu (1956) brought irrigation and domestic water in private houses and to sugar estates in several districts. Child welfare and similar activities developed in the war years. After expert inquiries in 1921 the water supply of Port Louis was greatly improved and the port itself was modernised. Under the stimulus of the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts more money was spent on education after the War. Before 1937 government revenue had come mainly from taxes on goods entering or leaving the Island as well as on various local products. A graduated poll tax on incomes was introduced and within ten years had almost doubled government revenue. The poll tax was replaced by an income tax as from the 1st July, 1951. The revenue from this source rose from Rs 17,322,000 in the financial year 1950-51 to Rs 39,807,785 in the financial year 1956-57.

At times when sugar prices were low or climatic difficulties discouraging, the Island had to raise loans or obtain grants from London. This happened in 1892, in 1908 when a Royal Commission of Inquiry under Sir Frank Swettenham was sent out from England, in 1930 when government expenditure on public works and on salaries was cut, and in 1945 as the consequence of the disastrous cyclones of that year.

The main political events of the period 1850-1900 were the establishment of the Municipality of Port Louis in 1850, the Royal Commission of Enquiry on Indian Immigration in 1872, and the creation in 1886 of a Council of Government including elected members.

The early years of the present century were a period of slow recovery after the epidemics, cyclones and other calamities. The years that immediately followed the 1914-18 war were years of unprecedented prosperity, owing to a boom in sugar prices, but this prosperity did not last long. During the second World War, Mauritius assumed considerable strategic importance through the closing of the Suez Canal and the threat to India by the Japanese after their conquest of most of the European settlements in the Far East. The population at large played a valuable part in the organisation of local, military and passive defence and a large number of the Colony's youth volunteered to serve overseas.

Chapter 3: Administration

The Government of Mauritius is vested in a Governor with an Executive Council and a Legislative Council.

A Council of Government was first established in 1825. It consisted of the Governor and four officials. In the following year the Constitution was amended and a Council which included unofficial members was introduced. This Constitution provided for a Council of Government composed of certain officers of the Crown and an equal number of other persons, to be taken from the chief land-owners and principal merchants of the Colony; seven officials and seven non-officials were accordingly appointed.

The Constitution was again amended in October, 1885. The Council of Government under the revised Constitution was composed of the Governor, eight *ex officio* members, nine members nominated by the Governor, and ten elected members; of the latter, two represented the town of Port Louis, the capital of the Island, and the remaining eight represented the rural districts. At least one-third of the nominated members were to be persons not holding any public office.

The Constitution was further amended in July, 1933, by fixing at two-thirds the proportion of the nominated members of the Council, who were to be non-officials and, although no provision to that effect was made in the Letters Patent, the nominated non-official members were allowed a free vote on all occasions. The constitution of the Executive Council, which had hitherto been composed of the Governor and four *ex officio* members, was amended at the same time, and the practice of appointing non-official members to the Council, which had prevailed before the Royal Commission of 1909 reported was revived.

The normal life of a Council is five years, but the last one to sit under the 1933 Constitution lasted from 1936 to 1948. This long extension was due first of all to the war and subsequently to the delay in arriving at a final decision on the new and more liberal Constitution. The protracted labours of the Consultative Committee on the revision of the constitution had ended in a virtual stalemate. In 1947 the then Governor, Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy, broke this stalemate by submitting to the Secretary of State revised proposals based on his belief that the bulk of the population was not ready for fully democratic institutions. To guard against possible abuse certain safeguards were suggested, but within these limitations the widest possible measure of enfranchisement, on the basis of a "simple literacy" requirement, was recommended by the

Governor, whose recommendations were accepted and embodied in the Letters Patent, Royal Instructions and Order in Council dated the 9th December, 1947. General elections were held in August, 1948, and the new Council met on the first day of September.

Under the 1947 constitution British subjects, male or female, of 21 years of age or upwards, who have been ordinarily and *bona fide* resident in the Colony for a period of two years preceding an election and who,

- (a) being originally resident in some electoral district, are able to read and write simple sentences and sign their names in one of certain specified languages, to the satisfaction of the Registering Officer, *or*
- (b) being ordinarily resident in some electoral district, are qualified as serving in the Forces or as ex-servicemen discharged with a certificate of satisfactory service, *or*
- (c) have been for six months previous to the date of registration owners or occupiers of business premises in an electoral district

are entitled to vote. An elector may have a vote under (c), in addition to a vote under (a) or (b), provided that he qualifies in respect of separate districts. Aliens, those under 21 years of age, those not possessing the residence qualification, criminals serving an unexpired sentence of over 12 months, the insane and, finally, those "disqualified for registration by any law for the time being in force in the Colony relating to offences connected with elections" are debarred from voting.

Electoral districts were regrouped under the Order in Council of December, 1947. Plaines Wilhems and Black River were joined together to form one electoral district returning six members. The electoral districts of Pamplemousses—Rivière du Rempart, Moka—Flacq and Grand Port—Savanne each return three members, and the constituency of Port Louis has four members by virtue of its dense population and commercial importance.

Under the 1933 Constitution the number of registered electors was never greater than 12,000 (the figure for December, 1947, was 11,799). The number of registered electors under the 1947 Constitution was six times greater—71,723 having qualified to vote in the 1948 elections. The number of registered electors at the end of 1957 had risen to 91,010.

The Legislative Council is now composed of three *ex officio*, 19 elected and 12 nominated non-official members. The Governor formerly presided but since January, 1957, the Council has had a

Speaker, appointed by the Governor, in accordance with the Mauritius (Legislative Council) (Amendment) Order in Council, 1956. A Deputy Speaker is elected by the Council from amongst those members who are not members of the Executive Council.

In debates in the Legislative Council members may speak either in English or in French.

The Executive Council consists of three officials (the Colonial Secretary, the Procureur and Advocate General and the Financial Secretary), four members selected for appointment by the Legislative Council from among the non-official members, and such other members as the Governor may appoint in accordance with section 5 (b) of the Royal Instructions, 1947 (formerly two in number). On the introduction of the ministerial system in July, 1957, the unofficial membership of the Executive Council was increased to nine. The Executive Council, which was formerly a purely advisory body, now has executive responsibility exercised through Ministers and has become in effect the principal instrument of policy; the conferment of executive responsibility is symbolised by the introduction of the title of "Minister" for all its members. Six Ministers hold portfolios as Ministerial Secretary to the Treasury, Minister of Works and Communications, Minister of Agriculture and Lands, Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister of Education and Institutions and Minister of Labour. Three Ministers are without portfolios.

The names of members of the Executive and Legislative Councils are given in Appendices II and III to this Report.

Between April, 1951, and September, 1956, certain unofficial members of the Executive Council were appointed as "Liaison Officers" for certain subjects in order that they might be brought into closer touch with the work of Government departments and might thus have an opportunity to gain fuller knowledge of departmental policy and take their share in framing it. No Liaison Officers were appointed between September, 1956, when the term of office of the unofficial members appointed in 1953 came to an end, and the introduction of the ministerial system in July, 1957.

The head of the Civil Service is the Colonial Secretary. He is the Governor's principal official adviser on administrative and political matters, and is responsible for the co-ordination of all Government activities. The Financial Secretary continues to be the principal adviser on financial and economic policy acting in concert with the Ministerial Secretary to the Treasury, the latter being also responsible for specific aspects of financial administration.

The Public Service Commission Ordinance (No. 53 of 1953) came into force on the 11th May, 1955. The Commission's function is to advise the Governor on appointments, promotions, disciplinary action and other matters which are referred to it in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance. During 1957 the Commission considered 1,661 applications in connexion with first appointments to 375 posts as well as the claims of 710 candidates for promotion: this involved a total of 785 interviews. The Commission also advised on 35 disciplinary cases and considered 52 matters concerning the grant of study leave or scholarships.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Urban

The Municipality of Port Louis was first established in 1850. The membership of the Municipal Council was increased by the Municipality (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950 (No. 35 of that year) from 12 to 16. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected by the Council for appointment by the Governor.

The qualifications required for registration as an elector are similar to those required of electors to the Legislative Council. There were 3,485 registered electors in 1948 and 21,000 in 1957.

By virtue of the Local Government Elections Ordinance (No. 1 of 1956) responsibility for the registration of electors and for the conduct of elections in the electoral areas of the Municipality and the three Town Councils is placed on an Electoral Commissioner appointed by the Governor. The registration of electors was carried out and the general elections for the Municipal and Town Councils in 1956 were conducted in accordance with the provisions of that Ordinance for the first time.

In Plaines Wilhems the Town Councils (Constitution) Ordinance (No. 38 of 1950) provided for Town Councils to replace the former Boards of Commissioners for Curepipe, Beau Bassin/Rose Hill and Quatre Bornes. Part of the members are elected and the others nominated by the Governor: Curepipe and Beau Bassin/Rose Hill each have nine elected and four nominated members, while Quatre Bornes has seven elected and three nominated members.

The number of registered electors for each of the Town Councils is as follows:

<i>Township</i>	<i>Registered electors</i>
Curepipe	5,212
Beau Bassin/Rose Hill	5,881
Quatre Bornes	4,784

Rural

A fresh start in rural local government was made in October, 1946, when a Civil Commissioner was appointed to take charge of the southern districts of Grand Port and Savanne. In May, 1947, a second Civil Commissioner was appointed for the northern districts of Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart, and a third Civil Commissioner, for the districts of Moka and Flacq, assumed duty towards the end of 1948. In October, 1952, Black River was added to the districts under the jurisdiction of the Civil Commissioner for the South. In September, 1955, a fourth Civil Commissioner was appointed to take charge of Black River District, the extra-urban areas of Plaines Wilhems and the southern extra-urban areas of Port Louis. The northern extra-urban areas of Port Louis come under the jurisdiction of the Civil Commissioner (North). The Civil Commissioner is the principal administrative and executive officer of Government in his district and he is responsible for coordinating the whole machinery of Government: the relationship between the Civil Commissioner and his technical colleagues in the district is similar in kind to that between the Governor and heads of department. The Civil Commissioner is also responsible for the development of local government in his district and for ensuring the welfare of its inhabitants by all means at his disposal.

Village councils were first constituted in 1947. A few councils developed very rapidly indeed and were given government contracts for such services as scavenging and the upkeep of cemeteries. With funds provided by the Central Government, councils undertook road repairs, the construction of bridges, markets, public latrines and primary school buildings, improvements to water supplies, the creation of a day nursery and even a housing experiment. Not all village councils have reached the same standard.

New impetus was given to rural local government by the Village Councils and District Councils Ordinances which came into force on the 9th February and 15th October, 1952, respectively. Regular elections, powers to raise taxes, own property and make bye-laws greatly enhanced the status of the village councils. The district council, which advises the Civil Commissioner on matters of policy, allocates funds to village councils and generally correlates their work, is able to raise certain taxes not applicable to any one village. At the end of 1952 district councils were set up in each of the three Civil Commissioners' districts following elections held under the Ordinance. Owing to the provisional character of the

village councils in the Plaines Wilhems—Black River district no district council has yet been set up.

At the end of 1957 there were 27 village councils in the South, 30 in Moka—Flacq, 30 in the North and 19 in Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

Village councils consist of eight members elected on a liberal franchise and four members nominated by the Governor. District councils consist of the Civil Commissioner and thirteen other members. These members are: an elected member of the Legislative Council appointed by the Governor (usually the first member for the District); a sugar estate manager appointed by the Governor from among those in the district; a president of a co-operative society elected by the presidents of co-operative societies in the District; representatives of the Medical, Education, and Public Works and Surveys Departments appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the head of department; and seven chairmen of village councils elected by the chairmen of village councils in the district. The Chairman of the District Council is elected by the members from amongst their number and has so far been the Civil Commissioner. The Local Government Officer is the Secretary and Treasurer of the District Council.

Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1956 on the development of rural local government in Mauritius was accepted by the Legislative Council in 1956 as providing a sound basis for such development. The Paper reviewed the present position in regard to rural local government by village and district councils and suggested the general lines on which the responsibilities and exercise of active citizenship in the rural areas could best be developed. The proposals made in this Paper were that (a) district and village councils should cease to be primarily agencies for the distribution of funds derived from the Central Government and should raise their own funds by means, for example, of a land rate on all occupied land within the district council area and a simple house rate payable by persons living within a village council's boundaries, (b) district and village councils should have appropriate trained staff, (c) by 1960 the direct participation of Civil Commissioners in the work of district councils, as members of those councils, should cease, and (d) representatives of Government departments should similarly cease to be members of district councils by nomination. The detailed implementation of these proposals is still under consideration.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

The metric system is in general use in the Colony. Certain French measures are still used in connection with measurements of land, the more common being:

1 French foot	=	1.06 English feet
1 Arpent	=	40,000 square French feet or 1.04 acres
1 Toise	=	6 French feet or 2 yards 4 inches

The following measures of capacity are also in use:

1 Bouteille	=	800 c.c. (liquid)
1 Chopine	=	half-bouteille
1 Corde	=	80 French cubic feet or 96.82 English cubic feet (used only to measure firewood).

A measure of length commonly used in the field is the *Gaulette* which is equivalent to 10 French feet. The term *livre* is used currently to mean half a kilogram.

The Weights and Measures Control Section of the Police Force is responsible for examining and stamping weights, scales, weighing machines, measures of length and measures of capacity. This section also deals with all inaccurate weights and measures seized by the uniformed Police and issues the necessary certificates for production in Court. The control of weighbridges on sugar estates is the responsibility of the Central Board constituted under the Sale of Canes (Control) Ordinance.

The amount of duty collected on weights and measures in 1957 was Rs 16,281 as compared with Rs 9,963 in 1956.

Chapter 5: Reading List

A list of publications of general interest relating to Mauritius, is given in Appendix IV.

APPENDIX I

Capital Expenditure Programme 1955—1960
Allocations made in Sessional Paper No. 6 of 1956 and
Actual Expenditure in 1956-57

<i>Allocation</i>	<i>Total 1955-1960</i>	<i>Actual Expenditure 1956-57</i>
	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
II		
District Administration...	216,300	13,311
Police	5,261,500	421,542
Printing	120,000	—
Prisons	356,030	68,655
Registrar General ...	240,000	—
Local Government ...	2,000,000	360,000
Customs and Excise ...	131,300	47,263
Treasury	90,000	20,815
TOTAL—GOVERNANCE ...	8,415,100	931,586
III		
Co-operation	550,000	98,450
Education	14,597,000	4,407,969
Housing Loans, Funds...	5,616,000	2,021,000
Medical and Health ...	13,580,000	1,809,816
Public Assistance ...	250,000	73,245
Subventions to Charitable Institutions ...	—	—
Social Welfare	—	—
TOTAL—SOCIAL SERVICES ...	34,593,000	8,410,480
IV		
Agriculture	15,977,600	3,283,033
Fisheries	250,000	—
Civil Aviation	200,000	3,381
Telecommunications ...	5,859,800	768,849
Fire Services	958,000	42,206
Forests	783,000	220,715
Harbour and Quays ...	10,417,800	88,709
Broadcasting	750,000	16,784
Observatory	589,400	112,334
Posts and Telegraphs ...	350,000	222,564
Water Supplies and Irrigation	12,650,000	3,050,428
Sewerage	5,270,000	216,219
TOTAL—PUBLIC UTILITIES AND SERVICES ...	54,055,600	8,025,222
V		
Public Works Miscellaneous	4,500,000	1,169,570
Roads	9,600,000	1,933,754
Electricity	7,680,000	2,353,644
Secondary Industries ...	1,400,000	227,436
TOTAL—INVESTMENT ...	23,180,000	5,684,404
TOTAL ...	120,243,700	23,051,692

APPENDIX II

(Part III—Chapter 3: Administration)

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1957*President*

His Excellency SIR ROBERT SCOTT, K.C.M.G., from 18th April.
ROBERT NEWTON, ESQ., C.M.G., until 17th April.

Ex Officio Members

The Colonial Secretary

ROBERT NEWTON, ESQ., C.M.G., from 18th April.

H. J. HINCHEY, ESQ., C.B.E., (Acting), until 12th April.

F. L. SIMPSON, ESQ., (Acting), from 12th April to 17th April.

The Procureur and Advocate General

R. NEERUNJUN, ESQ., O.B.E., Q.C.

The Financial Secretary

D. A. KAIN, ESQ., (Acting) until 2nd May.

W. G. WILSON, ESQ., from 3rd May.

Selected for appointment by the Governor

(in office until 14th June)

The Honourable A. M. OSMAN, O.B.E.

The Honourable A. G. SAUZIER.

Dr. the Honourable L. A. CÉLESTIN, M.C.

The Honourable A. R. MOHAMED

(in office from 5th July)

Dr. the Honourable C. E. MILLIEN, Minister of Labour.

Dr. the Honourable S. RAMGOOLAM, Ministerial Secretary to the Treasury.

The Honourable A. G. SAUZIER, Minister of Works and Communications.

The Honourable A. M. OSMAN, O.B.E., Minister of Agriculture and Lands.

APPENDIX II—*continued**Appointed by the Governor**(in office until 14th June)*

The Honourable M. A. D. R. MAIGROT, O.B.E.

The Honourable F. LAVENTURE.

(in office from 5th July)

Dr. the Honourable L. A. CÉLESTIN, M.C., Minister without Portfolio.

The Honourable J. G. FORGET, Minister of Health and Social Services.

The Honourable P. G. R. RAULT, Minister without Portfolio.

The Honourable R. SEENEEVASSEN, Minister of Education and Institutions.

The Honourable H. R. VAGHJEE, Minister without Portfolio.

APPENDIX III

(Part III—Chapter 3: Administration)

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE
FOR THE YEAR 1957*Speaker*

SIR ROBERT STANLEY, K.B.E., C.M.G.

Deputy Speaker

The Honourable A. BEEJADHUR, Elected Member for Pamplémousses—Rivière du Rempart.

Ex Officio Members

The Colonial Secretary

ROBERT NEWTON, ESQ., C.M.G., from 18th April.

H. J. HINCHEY, ESQ., (Acting), until 12th April.

F. L. SIMPSON, ESQ., (Acting), from 12th to 17th April.

The Procureur and Advocate General

R. NEERUNJUN, ESQ., O.B.E., Q.C.

The Financial Secretary

D. A. KAIN, ESQ., (Acting), until 2nd May.

W. G. WILSON, from 3rd May.

Elected Members

Dr. the Honourable S. RAMGOOLAM, for Pamplémousses—Rivière du Rempart.

Dr. the Honourable C. E. MILLIEN, for Port Louis.

The Honourable R. SEENEEVASSEN, for Port Louis.

The Honourable H. R. VAGHJEE, for Pamplémousses—Rivière du Rempart.

The Honourable J. M. J. L. M. J. KÖNIG, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable S. BISSOONDOYAL, for Grand Port—Savanne.

The Honourable J. G. FORGET, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable P. G. R. RAULT, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable V. RINGADOO, for Moka—Flacq.

APPENDIX III—*continued*

Dr. the Honourable R. BHAGEERUTTY, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable S. BOOLELL, for Moka—Flacq.

The Honourable F. S. CHADIEN, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

Dr. the Honourable L. R. CHAPERON, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable A. R. MOHAMED, for Port Louis.

The Honourable L. P. ROZEMONT, for Grand Port—Savanne.

The Honourable G. VENKATASAMY, for Grand Port—Savanne (deceased 11th August).

Dr. the Honourable W. R. DUPRÉ, for Port Louis.

The Honourable R. BALGOBIN, for Moka—Flacq.

The Honourable J. N. ROY, for Grand Port—Savanne (Elected 22nd October).

Nominated Members

The Honourable A. L. NAIRAC, C.B.E., Q.C.

The Honourable A. M. OSMAN, O.B.E.

Dr. the Honourable A. E. DE CHAZAL, O.B.E.

The Honourable J. AH-CHUEN.

The Honourable M. A. D. R. MAIGROT, O.B.E.

The Honourable A. G. SAUZIER.

The Honourable H. A. BAHEMIA.

Dr. the Honourable L. A. CÉLESTIN, M.C.

The Honourable G. J. M. SCHILLING (resigned 14th March).

The Honourable M. J. E. PIAT.

The Honourable F. LAVENTURE.

The Honourable I. G. G. SMITH.

APPENDIX IV

(Part III—Chapter 5: Reading list)

Leading Books on Mauritius

GENERAL

GENERALIA

UNIENVILLE, Marie Claude Antoine Marrier, baron d': Statistique de l'île Maurice et ses dépendances suivi d'une notice historique sur cette colonie et d'un Essai sur l'île de Madagascar. Paris, G. Barba, 1838. 3 vols.

A second edition was published in Port Louis, Typ. The Merchants and Planters Gazette, 1885-86, 3 vols, with phot. portr.

MACMILLAN, Allister, *ed*: Mauritius Illustrated Historical and descriptive, commercial and industrial facts, figures, and resources. London, W. H. and L. Collingridge, 1914. 456, with numerous illus. and maps.

WALTER, A.: Chronological table of events in Mauritius, 1507-1916. Appendix to the Mauritius Almanac, (1917). Mauritius, The Mauritius Stationery and Printing Cy. Ltd., 1917. 57p.

Fairly complete for the period of British occupation.

CHAROUX, Clément: Guide illustré de l'île Maurice. Port Louis. General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1936. 64, (32), Iip., illus.

TOUSSAINT, Auguste: Port Louis, deux siècles d'histoire, (1735-1935). Avec une Préface de Pierre Crépin, Docteur-ès-Lettres, Lauréat de l'Académie Française. Port Louis, La Typographie Moderne, 1936. (IX), 516p., with 50 plates and 9 maps.

Published on the occasion of the celebration of the bi-centenary of the foundation of Port Louis under the patronage of the Bi-centenary Committee, the Historical Records Committee and the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius. A very full account of the development of Port Louis.

BARNWELL, P. J. *and* TOUSSAINT, A.: A short history of Mauritius. London, Longmans, Green & Co., 1949. 268p., illus.

SORNAY, Pierre de: Isle de France—Ile Maurice. Port Louis. The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1950. XIV, 550, XXVIIp., illus., 28cm.

TOUSSAINT, Auguste: Select bibliography of Mauritius. Port Louis. The Standard Printing Establishment, 1951. 56p. 22cm.

APPENDIX IV—*continued*

TOUSSAINT, A., and ADOLPHE, H.: Bibliography of Mauritius 1502–1954), covering the printed record, manuscripts, archivalia and cartographic material. Port Louis, Esclapon Ltd. 1956. xvii, 884p.

ADMINISTRATIVE

ADMINISTRATION AND POLITICS

SWETTENHAM, Sir Frank Athestane, and others: Report of the Mauritius Royal Commission, 1909, presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty, June 1910 (Cd.5185). London, Eyre and Spottiswoode Ltd., 1910.60, XIIIp.

Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence printed separately (Cd. 5186), 581p. Documents received by the Commission also printed separately (Cd. 5187), 135p.

SWINDEN, J. B.: Local Government in Mauritius. Mauritius Government Press, 1946. 25p.

Revision of the Constitution. Correspondence with the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Mauritius, Government Press, 1947. 18p.

Problems of Parliamentary Government in Colonies—A report by the Hansard Society.

The development of rural local government in Mauritius. 12p. (Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1956).

Constitutional development in Mauritius. 56p. (Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1956).

Correspondence on proposals for Constitutional Changes 5p., (Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1957)

SOCIAL

POPULATION

BEEJADHUR, Aunauth: Les Indiens à l'Ile Maurice. Port Louis, La Typographie Moderne, 1935. 126p.

THORNTON WHITE, L. W.: A master plan for Port Louis, Mauritius. South Africa, Cape Times Ltd., 1953. 89p., diag., plans.

UNIENVILLE, Noël d': L'Ile Menacée. The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 109p., map. illus.

APPENDIX IV—*continued*

S L A V E R Y

TOUSSAINT, Auguste, *ed.*: Les missions d'Adrien d'Epinay (1830–1834). Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1946. XXXII, 216p.

E D U C A T I O N

WARD, W. E. F.: Report on Education in Mauritius. Mauritius, Government Press, 1952. 58p.

Report of the Select Committee on the Ward Report on Education. Mauritius Government Press, 1953. 41p.

NICHOLS, A. E.: A report on secondary education in Mauritius. Mauritius, The Government Printer, 1949, 31, (2)p.

E C O N O M I C S

E C O N O M I C S

ELLIOT, IVO D. and LOUGHNANE, N. G.: Financial situation of Mauritius. Report of a Commission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, December, 1931. Presented by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to Parliament by Command of His Majesty, March, 1932. (Cmd. 4034). London H.M. Stationery Office, 1932. 285p., map.

HOOPER, Charles Arthur, and others: Report of the Commission of enquiry into unrest on sugar estates in Mauritius, 1937. Mauritius, Government Press, 1938. XXIII, 253p.

MOODY, S., and others: Report of the Commission of Enquiry into the disturbances which occurred in the North of Mauritius in 1943. London, n.d. 81p., 1 map.

COODE and PARTNERS: Report on harbour facilities and suggested improvements at Port Louis, Mauritius. The Government Printer. 12p., 3 diags.

A G R I C U L T U R E A N D A G R O N O M Y

NORTH COOMBES, A: Tea in Mauritius, 1817–1944. *Revue Agricole de l'île Maurice*, vol. XXIII, No. 6, Nov.–Dec. 1944. p. 238–241.

An historical survey of the tea industry.

NORTH COOMBES, G. A.: The fibre industry of Mauritius. Port Louis. The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1951. 85p. 20.7cm.

APPENDIX IV—*continued*

MAURITIUS CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE

The President's report for the year 1953-54. Centenary Number.
The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1954. 117p.,
illus., tabs.

DUPAVILLON, F.: Le manguier à l'île Maurice. Esclapon Ltd., ii,
130p.

SUGARCANE

NORTH COOMBES, A.: The Evolution of Sugarcane Culture in
Mauritius, with a chapter on the Evolution of the Mauritian
Sugar Factory. Mauritius, General Printing, 1937, xv 197,
illus., map.

SORNAY, Pierre de: La canne à sucre à l'île Maurice. Paris Challamel, 1920. VIII, 677p., illus., maps.

SORNAY, P. DE, and SORNAY, A. DE: Manuel de la canne à sucre à
l'usage des chargés de cours et des élèves des grandes écoles
coloniales. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery
Cy. Ltd., 1952. 279p. 22.5cm.

A revised 2nd edition.

SCIENTIFIC

METEOROLOGY

HERCHENRODER, Marc: La pluie à l'île Maurice l'Etude de soixante
années d'observations. Préface de Maxime Kœnig. Maurice,
The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1935. 61p.

BOTANY

VAUGHAN, R. E. and WIEHE, P. O.: Studies on the vegetation of
Mauritius.

HUBBARD, C. E. and VAUGHAN, R. E.: The grasses of Mauritius
and Rodriguez. With a foreword by Sir Arthur W. Hill,
Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. London, Waterlow &
Sons, 1940. 128p., illus.

ZOOLOGY

STRICKLAND, H. E. and MELVILLE, H. E.: The Dodo and its
kindred; or the history, affinities and osteology of the Dodo,
Solitaire and other extinct birds of the islands Mauritius,
Rodriguez and Bourbon. London, Reeve, Benham and Reeve,
1848. 142p., 9 woodcuts, 16 plates.

WHEELER, DR. J. F. G. and OMMANNEY, DR. F. D.: Report on the
Mauritius-Seychelles fisheries survey, 1948-49. London,
H.M.S.O. 1953. 145p.

APPENDIX IV—*continued*

G E O L O G Y

- SIMPSON, E. S. W.: The geology and mineral resources of Mauritius. London, A. Brown & Sons Ltd., 1951. 21p., plan, plates.
- WALKER, F. and NICOLAYSEN, L. O.: The petrology of Mauritius. London, A. Brown & Sons Ltd., 43p., map, plates.

L I T E R A R Y

F O L K - L O R E

- BAISSAC, Charles: Etude sur le patois créole mauricien. Nancy, Berger-Levrault & Cie., 1880. (VI), LVII, 234p.
- BAISSAC, Charles: Le Folk-Lore de l'île Maurice (Texte créole et traduction française) (t.XXVII de la collection, Les littératures populaires de toutes les nations). Paris, Maisonneuve & Ch. Leclerc, 1888. (VIII), XIX, 468p.
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APPENDIX IV—*continued*

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PITOT, Albert: *L'Ile de France. Esquisses historiques (1715–1810)*
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MAHÉ DE LABOURDONNAIS, B. F.: *Mémoire des Iles de France et de Bourbon*. Edité par Albert Loughnon et Auguste Toussaint.
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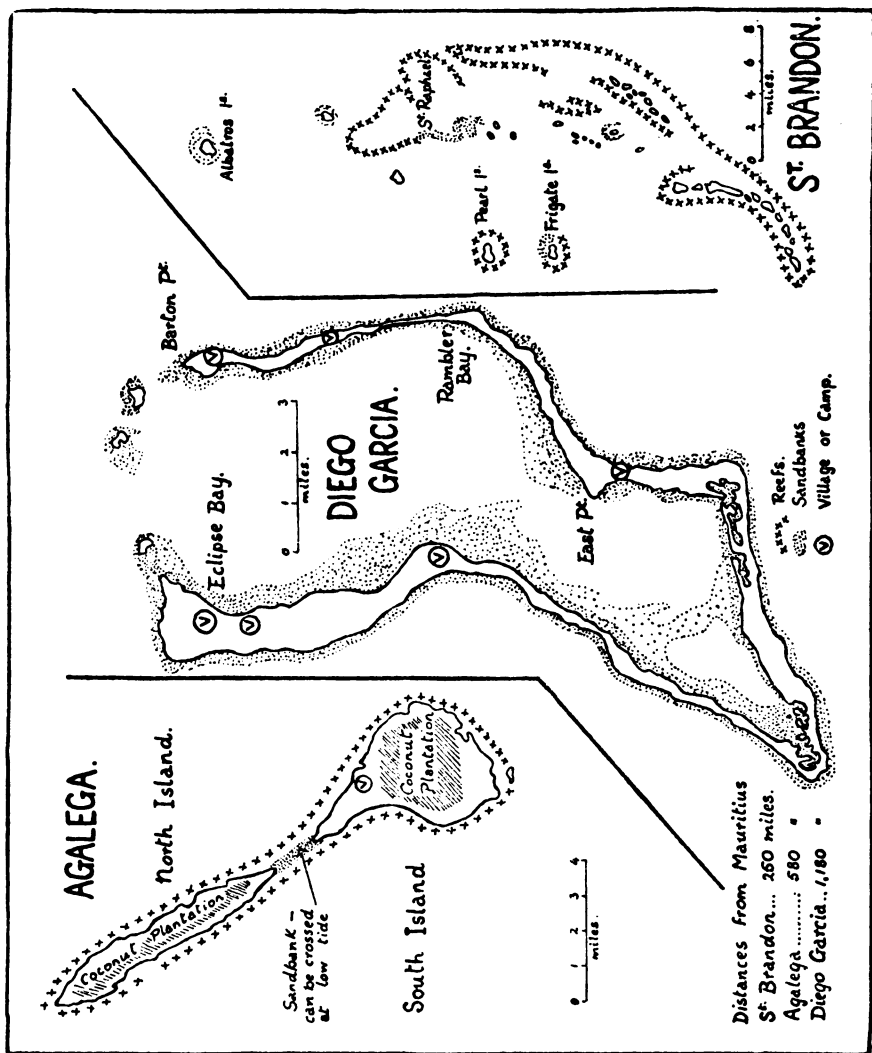
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PART I

Review of the Year 1958

ROYAL VISIT

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visited the Colony on her way home from Her tour of Australia and New Zealand. Her Majesty, who had already visited the Island in 1927 as Duchess of York, was the guest of His Excellency the Governor from the 8th to the 11th March and received a warm welcome throughout the Island.

POLITICAL

The Honourable Renganaden Seeneevassen, Minister of Education and Institutions, elected Member of the Legislative Council for Port Louis, member of the Port Louis Municipal Council, and a leading member of the Mauritius Labour Party, died suddenly on the 5th June. The resulting vacancy in the Executive Council was filled by the appointment of the Honourable V. Ringadoo as Minister without portfolio, while the Honourable H. R. Vaghjee, Minister without portfolio, was appointed Minister of Education and Institutions. Certain changes involving the Ministry of Works and Communications which had been under consideration were at the same time put into effect. The Ministry was divided into a Ministry of Communications under the Honourable A. G. Sauzier, and a Ministry of Works and Tourism, which was entrusted to the Honourable P. G. R. Rault, formerly Minister without portfolio. The new arrangements took effect from the 1st July.

A by-election to fill the vacancy on the Municipal Council caused by the death of the Honourable R. Seeneevassen was held on the 10th August. Mr. Hossenbhay Peerbaye, candidate of the Labour Party, was elected.

The Report of the Mauritius Electoral Boundary Commission (see Report on Mauritius—1957) was published as Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1958. In their report the Commission said that, reading the London Agreement as a whole, they felt that the intention was that for the next three elections there should be a certainty that the proper proportions for the representation of the three main sections of the population were obtained in the Legislative Council by election or, failing that, by election plus Governor's appointments. The Commission felt that, in present circumstances, this was a necessary step in the constitutional development of Mauritius. They had therefore studied that part of the London Agreement which

provided for nomination by the Governor of 'those who had no opportunity of obtaining representation through election' (always provided that the Governor should not thereby frustrate the election results). The Commission asked whether this would enable the Governor to provide a seat on the Legislative Council for those candidates who, though they had failed to be elected, showed that they had a reasonable following, and, if the Governor was so enabled, whether he would use that power to secure that the proper proportions were in fact attained. The Commission further asked whether the Governor would be enjoined in doing so to bear in mind that any of the three main sections (Indo-Mauritian Hindus, Indo-Mauritian Muslims and General Population), though not sub-divided for the purpose of the Commission's terms of reference, might well contain important differences of opinion which the Governor should recognise. The Commission concluded that if the Governor could and would act as they had set out, and if the Secretary of State confirmed that it was proper that the Commission should pay regard to this in their recommendation, they would unhesitatingly report that 40 single-member constituencies as defined in an appendix to their report would better serve the agreed principles and the interests of Mauritius—and in particular of the two smaller main sections—and they recommended the single-member constituencies in the appendix to the Secretary of State for confirmation. The Commission said they would not have felt able to make this recommendation had they not been satisfied both that these single-member constituencies would give adequate opportunity to the General Population and that the system of three-member constituencies would give a worse opportunity to the Indo-Mauritian Muslims. In reply the Secretary of State said that after considering the Report as a whole he had no hesitation in giving the Commission the assurances which they had mentioned in regard to Governor's appointments: consequently he had adopted the recommendations for single-member constituencies as described in the appendix to the report. In a covering despatch to the Governor the Secretary of State said that in the light of the findings of the Commission and in order that the main principles of the London Agreement, which were accepted by all parties, should be secured, he had given the assurances for which the Commission had asked, even although he realised it might be contended that in so doing he had himself gone beyond the strict terms of the London Agreement. Bearing in mind, however, that the information available at the London Conference was not fully accurate, because no geographical analysis of

the 1952 census had been made, and that the Commission had made a recommendation which fulfilled the main principles underlying the London Agreement, he had no doubt that he should give the assurance for which they had asked. In consequence he had accepted and adopted the Commission's report and had approved both the system of single-member constituencies and the electoral map recommended by the Commission. He enjoined the Governor to exercise his power of appointment to the Legislative Council in such a way that each of the three main sections of the population described by the Commission were so far as was possible represented in the Legislative Council in numbers broadly corresponding to their proportion of the population as a whole. The Governor should at the same time bear in mind that there might well be within the three main sections important differences of opinion of which he should also take account. In appointing members to achieve that result the Governor should feel free to select candidates who had been unsuccessful in the election if, in the Governor's opinion, they had received a reasonable amount of support, as well as persons who had not stood at the elections. No appointment of that sort, the Secretary of State added, should be made which would frustrate the result of an election, and the Governor would, of course, have to have regard to the other principles set out in paragraph 3 of the record of the London Agreement.

The report was debated in the Legislative Council and adopted on the 28th March.

Pending the making of the necessary constitutional Order in Council, the Mauritius (Electoral Provisions) Order in Council, 1958, was made in order that early action might be taken in connexion with the delimitation of constituency boundaries, the registration of electors and other matters. The Representation of the People Bill was introduced into the Legislative Council on the 10th June and passed on the 24th June. The Representation of the People Ordinance (No. 14 of 1958) makes provision for the registration of electors and the conduct of elections for the Legislative Council and for the Municipal Council and the Town Councils. The provisions in respect of the Legislative Council (with the exception of those relating to electors' cards) were brought into force on the 16th August by Proclamation No. 9 of 1958.

The Mauritius (Constitution) Order in Council, 1958, was made by Her Majesty on the 30th July and was published in the *Government Gazette* on the 13th August. The boundaries of the forty

constituencies were fixed by the Governor by Proclamation (No. 10 of 1958) under section 29 of the Order in Council.

The registration of claimants for inclusion in the registers of electors began on the 1st September and ended on the 6th October. Extensive measures, including the use of mobile registration units, were taken to ensure registration on the widest possible scale and a total of 211,786 claimants were registered as compared with a potential electorate estimated by the Electoral Boundary Commission at 277,799. The lists of claimants were published on the 31st October and the various processes leading to the hearing of objections were completed by the 27th December. Such objections as were raised were raised *ex officio*. After the disposal of objections and revision of the lists a total of 208,684 persons remained on the registers as persons qualified to vote in the first general election under the new Constitution, as compared with a total of 92,242 electors registered at the time of the last general election in 1953. The registered electorate in the smallest constituency (No. 5—Port Louis Maritime) was 2,948 and in the largest (No. 18—Montagne Blanche), 6,505.

The Legislative Council was dissolved on the 31st December by Proclamation No. 20 of 1958. Its life, due to come to an end in August, had previously been extended by six months by the Mauritius (Legislative Council—Extension of Duration) Order in Council, 1958. The 31st December was also appointed, by Proclamation No. 21 of 1958, as the day for bringing into force the provisions of the Mauritius (Constitution) Order in Council, 1958, with the exception of Part II of the Order, which relates to the Executive Council. By the end of the year arrangements for the general election had reached an advanced stage.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL

Dry conditions prevailed during the latter half of 1957 and were followed, in March and April, 1958, by two cyclones which, though they did not hit Mauritius, passed sufficiently near to affect sugar and other crops. The 1958 sugar crop is estimated to have produced 525,648 metric tons, as compared with 562,003 (*) metric tons in 1957.

The negotiated price under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement was £43. 16s. 8d. per ton and with lower free market values during the year the gross value of the 1958 crop is expected to be of the order of Rs 245,500,000. The negotiated price for the calendar year 1959 has been fixed at £45. 2s. 0d. per ton.

(*) Corrected figure.

Tea production at 1,924,658 lbs showed an increase of some 80,900 lbs, but exports at 775,622 lbs showed a decrease as compared with 1957. An overseas firm with experience in tea planting and manufacturing has been entrusted with the erection and operation of a new Government tea factory; the factory was nearing completion by the end of the year.

The closing of the Colony's accounts for the year 1957-58 showed a surplus of Rs 1 million against an estimated surplus of Rs 2.8 million, expenditure having been under-estimated by Rs 8.5 million and revenue under-estimated by Rs 6.7 million. Expenditure on capital works, which is financed from the Capital Fund and excluded from the recurrent budget, amounted to Rs 23.1 million.

The Final Report of the Economic Planning Committee, published as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1958 under the title "A Plan for Mauritius", laid down a programme of capital expenditure for 1957-62 totalling Rs 210 million. The programme includes major projects for road and harbour development, a large sewerage scheme and considerable expenditure on electricity development and is designed to provide the country with a sound foundation upon which to expand its resources and its economic activity in the future.

S O C I A L S E R V I C E S

Admissions to the Government and aided primary schools in January, 1958, reached the record figure of 24,558. The magnitude of the achievement may be gauged from the fact that a decade ago the total number of children in these schools was only twice that figure.

The number of pupils on roll (as at the 31st October) increased at the primary level from 102,291 in 1957 to 115,629 in 1958 and at the secondary level from 12,606 to 15,437. The grand total of full-time students in Mauritius at all levels was slightly in excess of 131,000, or more than one-fifth of the total population of the Colony.

Existing Government and aided primary schools were enlarged by the addition of 194 classrooms during the year. Six new Government primary schools were opened. One more school was completed but had not been opened by the end of the year, while eight others were under construction. The new building for Youth House was nearing completion. Plans for the completion of the Royal College School, now named Royal College (Port Louis), and for the extension of Queen Elizabeth College were under consideration. To

enable a start to be made in early 1959, pending the construction of a new building, temporary accommodation has been found for the proposed technical institute and trade centre.

Part III of the Education Ordinance (No. 39 of 1957) relating to the control and inspection of schools came into operation on the 1st July.

The health of the population continued to show a steady improvement. The Colony continued to receive valuable assistance from the World Health Organization which sent teams of experts to carry out a tuberculosis survey, to investigate the problem of nutritional anaemics, and to assess the results obtained after many years of malaria control and to advise on future action.

The medical services continued to expand. A new central laboratory designed to meet the needs of the Medical and other Departments, a school for the training of nurses, and a new hospital in Rodrigues were completed during the year. A new out-patient's block at the Civil Hospital, an ophthalmic unit at Victoria Hospital, and an additional ward and an out-patient's block at the Mental Hospital (now named Brown Sequard Hospital) were nearing completion. Three quarters for medical officers were ready for occupation.

The Colony was awarded the William Hardy Shield by the National Baby Council in the United Kingdom in recognition of the marked improvement in the vital statistics of the Island. The Competitions Sub-Committee of the Council were impressed by the programme of improvements to the health services, especially in the field of maternity and child welfare.

The foundation stone of an 'open prison', an experiment designed to bring Mauritius into line with modern penal reform, was laid by His Excellency the Governor on the 2nd October.

Further progress has been made with housing both in the urban and rural areas. Of the Rs 10,000,000 provided in the 1957-1962 Capital Expenditure Programme for housing loans to the local authorities in the urban areas, Rs 1,300,000 had been issued by the end of the year. Housing schemes undertaken by two of the Town Councils were completed during the year.

All the houses in the model village constructed by Flacq United Estates Ltd. with the assistance of a loan from the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund were completed during the year.

An examination of the pattern of employment and the nature and extent of unemployment and underemployment in Mauritius,

and of the wages and conditions of employment of labourers and artisans in the sugar industry, was conducted by Mr. R. W. Luce, C.B., M.B.E., whose report was published as Sessional Paper No. 7 of 1958. A Government statement of policy, entitled "The Luce Report: A time for decision" (Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1958), which was published simultaneously, emphasized the more practical and pressing of the lines of action required to solve the grave problems resulting from the pressure of the Colony's rapidly increasing population on the limited resources of the Island. The two documents were debated by the Legislative Council on the 30th September and 7th October on a motion moved by the Minister of Labour, which was adopted.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

The domestic water supply system was further extended and improved.

Production of electricity kept pace with demand, which rose to 48.9 million Kwh. Substantial quantities of power were fed into the public network during the crushing season under arrangements made between certain sugar factories and the Central Electricity Board. Work on new hydro-electric schemes made satisfactory progress and it is expected that three new stations will be commissioned in 1959. Thermal generation, at 32.8% of total power produced, continued to provide an uneconomically high proportion of power sold.

COMMUNICATIONS

The public railway system continued to run at a loss. Bus services continued to improve: a new bus station was built at Victoria Square in Port Louis and public service vehicle licences were granted by the Licensing Authority on several additional bus routes. The number of buses had increased by the end of the year to 382. This figure includes 12 small buses, each seating 10 persons, which have proved useful and economical for urban routes. There has been a marked improvement in the standard of coach building. For the first time, aluminium bus bodies were made with aluminium alloy sections locally cold-formed. Three buses of this type were licensed during the year. A daily average of 106,232 passengers travelled by bus.

A radio-telephone service between Mauritius and Rodrigues, operated by Cable and Wireless Ltd., was inaugurated on the 24th November by His Excellency the Governor during his visit to the dependency. This service is open to the general public.

A Royal Air Force jet aircraft, the *Canberra "Aries V"*, arrived on the 28th April and flew over Port Louis before landing at Plaisance. The aircraft was on a round-the-world flight from the United Kingdom *via* Commonwealth countries.

URBAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In response to a resolution adopted by the Municipal Council in October, 1957, asking that the Government should appoint a commission to make recommendations for reforming the Municipality's accounting system and for strengthening in particular the control of finance and the general service of the Municipality with a view to ensuring the optimum use of municipal funds, Mr. C. W. Seed, C.B.E., was appointed to undertake the enquiry and arrived in the Colony in April. Mr. Seed also conducted a review of the financial and accounting procedures of the Town Councils of Curepipe, Quatre Bornes and Beau Bassin and Rose Hill. He left the Colony in October.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE

In accordance with an undertaking given by the Government the Working Party instituted to review the structure, operation and system of recruitment of the Public Service (Working Party No. 1) remained in existence in order to review anomalies and representations arising from the implementation of its own report and that of the Salaries Commissioner. The representations made by individual officers and the various staff associations have been examined by the Working Party and, together with the recommendations of the Working Party, are now due for reference to the Central Whitley Council in accordance with a request made by the Staff Side. Matters affecting the Mauritius Senior and Professional Civil Servants Association, which is not represented on the Central Whitley Council, will be discussed separately with the Association.

A second Working Party, with Mr. M. J. L. Rivalland, M.B.E., as Chairman, and the Reverend E. Dethise and Mr. J. M. Céleste as members, was appointed in February to review the rates of wages and conditions of service of manual workers and other employees in Government departments and to formulate measures for their rationalisation. Its terms of reference were as follows:—

“ To review the recruitment, training and conditions of service of manual workers and other employees paid from the ‘ Other Charges ’ section of the Estimates and to make recommendations having regard to:

- (1) the need to ensure fair and adequate wages and conditions of service for the various grades of Government employees under review;
- (2) the need to consider whether, in view of the generally accepted practice elsewhere, it would be beneficial to categories of workers paid under ' Other Charges ' to institute a uniform system of payment by the week bearing in mind that any such weekly system should in no way interfere with
 - (a) security of tenure;
 - (b) other advantages conferred by the normal contract of work with Government;
- (3) the need to relate technical skill to remuneration;
- (4) the need for rationalisation of and uniformity in conditions of service to the fullest extent practicable through the full range of Government departments employing persons within these terms of reference "

The Working Party recommended that employees whose work was wholly or mainly clerical in nature should be put on annual rates of pay and paid from the " Personal Emoluments " section of the Estimates; and that those whose work was wholly or mainly manual in nature should be classed as manual workers and paid at daily wages. Two categories of manual workers were recommended: the first category was intended to include all those workers for whom, as far as could be foreseen, there would be a permanent need and who should be classified as ' Permanent Employees ', paid from under the Personal Emoluments section of the estimates and accorded a high degree of security of employment together with other special privileges; the remaining workers could fall within the second category, termed " Casual Employees ", and would continue to be paid from the " Other Charges " section of the Estimates. The Working Party further recommended that all manual workers should be grouped in eight classes, based on degrees of skill, and that uniform rates of pay should apply in each class. While the Working Party reached agreed conclusions in so far as the rationalisation of conditions was concerned, it was unable to reach agreement on the difficult question of wage rates and each member submitted his own recommendations. New daily rates of wages had in consequence to be determined by the Government itself. The Report of the Working Party was published as Sessional Paper No. 10 of 1958, together with the revised rates of wages formulated

by the Government, and adopted, after debate in the Legislative Council, on the 14th October. The adoption of the new wage rates involved an additional yearly commitment of about Rs 3,100,000. The new rates took effect from the 1st January, 1957, entailing payment of arrears totalling about Rs 6 million. The calculation of the arrears payable to each of some 10,500 workers was a formidable task and in order that every worker might receive at least part of the sum due to him at the earliest possible date it was decided to pay the arrears in instalments. Payment of the first instalment was completed at or about the New Year. Several improvements in conditions of service, operative as far as practicable from the 1st October, 1958, were also approved.

The report of the Commission of Enquiry into the Mauritius Police Force, published as Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1958, was debated in the Legislative Council on the 15th April and accepted in principle without a decision. The Commission formulated a number of important recommendations for the re-organisation and training of the Force so as to increase its efficiency, for relieving the Force from extraneous duties and for improving public relations. A number of these recommendations had been implemented by the end of the year. The revision of salaries of the Force proposed by the Commission was found to be too costly and alternative proposals formulated by the Government were accepted by the Legislative Council. The cost of this salary revision which, like other salary revisions, was given retrospective effect to the 1st January, 1957, was estimated at Rs 850,000 per annum.

A revision of Government pensions was approved by the Legislative Council after debate on the 16th December.

DEPENDENCIES

His Excellency the Governor, travelling in the frigate H.M.S. *Puma*, visited Rodrigues in November. He was accompanied by Mr. W. G. Wilson, Financial Secretary, and by Mr. J. H. Robertson of the Pacific Department of the Colonial Office.

HONOURS

Her Majesty the Queen was graciously pleased to approve the following appointments and awards on the occasion of the New Year and on Her Birthday:—

NEW YEAR

Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire
DAVID ANDREW KAIN, Deputy Financial Secretary.

Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

REVEREND FATHER RONALD GANDY, C.S.S.P. First Class Priest
(Roman Catholic Church), Rodrigues.

LÉON MARCEL COOTY, Deputy Accountant General.

ADAMJEE ELAHEE DOOMUN, Auditor.

Colonial Police Medal

FRITZ FULGENCE MYLIUS AZA, Inspector Grade II, Public Works
Department.

BIRTHDAY

Companion of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

DR. PAUL OCTAVE WIEHÉ, D.Sc., A.R.C.S., Dip. Agric., Director,
Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute.

Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

MRS. MARIE LOUISE EMILIENNE ROCHECOUSTE, Chairman, Dis-
charged Persons Aid Committee.

Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

JOHN LEWIS D'ESPAGNAC, Engineer, Railways Department.

Colonial Police Medal

MANUEL SEENEEVASAGUM, Assistant Superintendent of Police.

Certificates and Badges of Honour

His Excellency the Governor approved the award of the Certi-
ficate and Badge of Honour on the occasion of the New Year to
each of the following:

CHARLES GIBLOT DUCRAY, for social and welfare work.

BEEWAH MAHADOO, for public services in connexion with rural
administration, co-operation and welfare.

SHARMA RAMCHURN, for public services in connexion with rural
administration.

XAVIER PRUDENCE, for public services in connexion with agricul-
tural development in Rodrigues.

VISITORS

SIR DONALD MACKENZIE KENNEDY, K.C.M.G., Governor of
Mauritius from 1942 to 1949.

HIS EXCELLENCY JAN VAN DEN BERG, Ambassador for the Nether-
lands in the Union of South Africa.

MR. S. MEIJER, Counsellor of the Netherlands Embassy in the Union
of South Africa.

MR. CHARLES D. WITHERS, Consul General for the United States at
Nairobi,

- AIR MARSHALL SIR HUBERT PATCH, K.C.B., C.B.E., Air Officer Commanding in Chief, Middle East Air Force.
- MAJOR GENERAL N. P. H. TAPP, C. B., C.B.E., D.S.O., General Officer Commanding, East Africa Command.
- VICE-ADMIRAL H. W. BIGGS, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., Commander in Chief, East Indies Station.
- BRIGADIER P. W. P. GREEN, D.S.O., O.B.E., Chief of Staff, East Africa Command.
- SIR GEOFFREY GIBBS, K.C.M.G., Deputy Chairman of Barclays Bank, D.C.O.
- THE HONOURABLE LADY GIBBS, Overseas Chief Commissioner for Girl Guides.
- MR. J. H. ROBERTSON, of the Pacific Department of the Colonial Office.
- MR. E. L. T. BARTON, O.B.E., Director of Overseas Navigational Services, Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, London.
- MR. R. I. VARNEY, of the Directorate of Overseas Navigational Services, Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, London.
- MR. G. A. ATKINSON, Colonial Building Research Liaison Officer and Housing Adviser.
- MR. L. FARRER-BROWN, Director of the Nuffield Foundation and Vice-President of the London National Council of Social Services.
- DR. A. M. WILSON RAE, C.M.G., M.D., Ch. B., Chief Medical Officer, Colonial Office.
- MR. DAVID BARRETT, of the Plantation Workers International Federation.
- DR. H. WISEMAN, Chairman of the Advisory Committee to the Caird Trust and Chairman of the Scottish Music Committee of the Carnegie U.K. Trust.
- MR. KEVIN MUIR, Regional Secretary of the World Assembly of Youth for East, Central and Southern Africa.
- DR. E. ROELSGAARD, of the Tuberculosis Section of the World Health Organization, Geneva.
- MR. ROLAND CADET, *Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, Croix de Guerre, Conseiller d'Etat et Conférencier Délégué par l'Alliance Française.*
- MR. ALEXIS LALANNE, *Chef du Service de l'Elevage et des Epizooties de Madagascar.*

VISITING SHIPS

H.M.S. *Gambia*, which visited Rodrigues on the 18th July and which was next due to visit Mauritius, had to cancel her visit because of the international situation and only stopped for re-fuelling. The ship flew the flag of Vice Admiral H. W. Biggs the 100th and last Commander-in-Chief of the East Indies Station, with which the Colony has had a long and historic association.

The Colony was visited by H.M.S. *Mounts Bay* in January, H.M. Submarine *Alaric* in July and H.M.S. *Puma* in November.

The French aircraft tender *Commandant Robert Giraud* visited Mauritius in April.

PART II

Chapter I: Population

A census of the population, which was taken during the night of the 28th—29th June, 1952, gave the following results:

Males ...	...	252,032
Females ...	...	249,383
TOTAL ...	...	501,415

The population of Mauritius as at the 31st December, 1958, was estimated therefrom at 614,000.

The natural increase, that is the excess of births over deaths in 1958 was 17,488, a number which is nearly 7 times the corresponding average for the five pre-war years (1935–39).

Civilian departures from the Colony exceeded arrivals by 221.

The average density of the population for the whole Island was 838 per square mile (calculated on the mid-year population).

BIRTHS

The number of live births during the year 1958 was 24,600, a decrease of 673 on the number for 1957, but an increase of 1,732 on the yearly average number of births for the ten years ending with 1957.

<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male births per 1,000 female births</i>
12,419	12,181	24,600	1,020

The following are the birth rates (per 1,000 of the mid-year population) for the last six years:

1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
46.3	41.3	41.8	43.8	43.1	40.8

Still-births, which are not included as either births or deaths, numbered 1,703 (868 males and 835 females), corresponding to a rate of 6.9 per hundred live births, as compared with 1,800 still-births, corresponding to a rate of 7.1, in 1957.

DEATHS

Deaths registered in Mauritius numbered 7,112, corresponding to a rate of 11.8 per 1,000 of the population. The month of maximum mortality was August with 674 deaths.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of deaths in 1958 ...	3,751	3,361	7,112
Rate per 1,000 of population	12.3	11.3	11.8

The average death rate for the period 1948–57 was 15.4.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age during 1958 was 1,659 (1,897 in 1957). This number was considerably lower than in the quinquennial period 1944-48.

The following table shows the infantile mortality rate (i.e. the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births):—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Rate</i>
1944-1948	
(average) ...	154.9
1952 ...	80.8
1953 ...	93.5
1954 ...	81.1
1955 ...	67.2
1956 ...	66.0
1957 ...	75.1
1958 ...	67.4

MARRIAGES

The following table gives the number of marriages for the last five years:

1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
3,092	2,797	3,080	2,903	3,169

MOVEMENT OF THE CIVIL POPULATION

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Arrivals ...	5,424	3,279	8,703
Departures...	5,596	3,328	8,924

These figures include the very small figure of engaged or discharged seamen, and emigrants and immigrants to and from the dependencies, but not movements of troops.

Chapter 2 : Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

EMPLOYMENT

The distribution of manual workers employed in the Public Services and in the various industries of the Colony in 1958 is given in the table below :—

		<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Juveniles</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>(a) Public Services—</i>					
Government Departments	...	9,909	422	72	10,403
Urban Councils	... ..	1,231	55	11	1,297
<i>(b) Sugar Industry</i>					
	...	39,382	13,335	2,729	55,446
<i>(c) Other Industries—</i>					
Aloe Fibre...	... ..	473	832	106	1,411
Aerated Water Works	... ..	157	49	—	206
Bakeries	... ..	547	—	—	547
Building Contractors	... ..	2,084	4	125	2,213
Cigarette Manufactories	... ..	88	114	—	202
Compounders	... ..	62	14	—	76
Distilleries	... ..	78	1	—	79
Docks	... ..	1,084	8	18	1,110
Electricity	... ..	739	2	13	754
Jewellery	... ..	370	—	78	448
Lime Kilns	... ..	325	231	—	556
Match Manufactories	... ..	8	10	2	20
Oil Industry	... ..	63	—	—	63
Printing Establishments	... ..	270	—	56	326
Sack Factory	... ..	190	120	26	336
Salt Pans	... ..	47	50	—	97
Saw Mills	... ..	215	—	—	215
Shoe-making	... ..	238	49	140	427
Stevedoring Companies	... ..	826	—	—	826
Sugar Mechanical Pool	... ..	149	—	2	151
Tanneries	... ..	51	—	—	51
Tea Industry	... ..	931	741	231	1,903
Tobacco	... ..	726	1,162	191	2,079
Wine Industries	... ..	214	187	3	404
Workshops (Motor)	... ..	535	—	261	796
Workshops (Other)	... ..	676	2	58	736
Bus Coach Builders	... ..	92	—	61	153
		<u>61,760</u>	<u>17,388</u>	<u>4,183</u>	<u>83,331</u>

The survey carried out in March by Mr. Luce, C.B., M.B.E., showed that there were 174,000 persons economically active in the Colony. The difference between this figure and the total shown in

ns, Wages and Labour nisation

YMENT

workers employed in the Public
ries of the Colony in 1958 is given

Men	Women	Juveniles	Total
0,000	422	72	10,403
1,231	55	11	1,297
9,382	13,335	2,729	55,446
473	832	106	1,411
157	49	—	206
547	—	—	547
084	4	125	2,213
88	114	—	202
62	14	—	76
78	1	—	79
084	8	18	1,110
739	2	13	754
670	—	78	448
225	231	—	556
8	10	2	20
63	—	—	63
70	—	56	326
90	120	26	336
7	50	—	97
5	—	—	215
8	49	140	427
6	—	—	826
9	—	2	151
—	—	—	51
—	—	—	1,903
741	231	—	2,079
1,162	191	—	404
187	3	—	796
—	261	—	736
2	58	—	153
—	61	—	—
17,388	4,183	—	83,331

Mr. Luce, C.B., M.B.E.,
economically active in the
e and the total shown in

the above table is accounted for by clerical and supervisory v
self-employed persons and domestic servants not included
classification.

The sugar industry, the main industry of the Island, em
on an average 55,446 workers in 1958. The seasonal fluctua
this industry between the average inter-harvest employme
average harvest employment amounted to 19 per cent as sho
the following figures:

	During inter-crop	During crop
Artisans and drivers ...	4,281	4,15
Labourers:—		
Males ...	30,486	39,800
Females ...	12,248	14,422
Juveniles ...	2,614	2,844
	45,348	57,06
	49,629	61,26

The secondary industries of the Island, of which the
important are aloe fibre extraction, alcohol distilling from mo
and the manufacture of tea and tobacco, provided employme
some 5,862 skilled workers, 5,376 unskilled males, 3,576 fe
and some 1,371 juveniles. The public services employed
skilled workers and 8,142 unskilled men, 477 women an
juveniles. The number of persons employed in industries an
public services was registered as 83,331, of whom 13,099
skilled workers, 48,661 unskilled men, and 21,571 women
juveniles.

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

The value of the sugar annually exported from Mauritius r
sents about 97 per cent of the total value of all exports from
Colony. The sugar industry therefore governs the entire econo
the Island; it embraces not only all those persons directly o
directly interested in the planting of sugar cane and in the m
facture of sugar and its by-products and the financing of
cultivation, manufacture and marketing of the product, but
affects very largely the public revenue and those classes of pe
such as merchants and bankers, whose business is mainly conne
therewith.

Much of the estate work is still of a manual nature, tho
mechanization of field work is being pushed as rapidly as imp
of bulldozers, rotary ploughs and tractors permit; the rocky na
of the soil, however, makes it unlikely that the industry can
become fully mechanized.

OTHER OCCUPATIONS

Other occupations include the aloe fibre (*Furcraea Gigantea*) industry, which produces fibre for making bags for the sugar industry; the tea industry, which is expanding and produces tea both for local consumption and for export, tobacco growing; food crops and the cultivation of vegetables; and the rearing of milch cows and livestock on a small scale.

Minor industries include fishing, sawmills, garages, workshops, salt pans, lime kilns, furniture manufacture, charcoal burning, match manufacture, the preparation of hides and skins, tanning and boot and shoe manufacture, clothing and shirt manufacture, and printing.

Apart from agricultural and industrial occupations, many of the population are employed as clerical workers and as domestic servants.

There is fairly full employment for agricultural workers for nine months of the year, including the extremely busy harvest season averaging about 170 days in length. During the remainder of the year unemployment is occasionally reported in certain areas. Efforts are made through the machinery of the Local Employment Committees to alleviate unemployment where it exists by the issue of permits to transport labourers by lorry to localities where work is available. Government departments employing labour reserve, as far as possible, their major works for the inter-crop season. Employers are requested to recruit their labour through the Employment Registration Bureau and when workers are discharged from employment they are referred to the Bureau to register for re-employment.

The number of registered unemployed and the number of workers placed for the year 1958 were as follows:

	<i>Unemployed persons</i>				<i>Placings</i>
January	4,907	435
February	3,491	240
March	2,177	487
April	1,906	366
May	2,136	517
June	2,050	353
July	1,988	255
August	1,766	207
September	1,847	226
October	2,338	206
November	1,859	137
December	1,996	138
Monthly average 1958	2,372	297
Monthly average 1957	1,747	218

The Survey carried out by Mr. Luce indicated that there were 31,000 unemployed persons in the Colony in March, 1958. By comparison with the above table, it will be seen that most of these were not registered.

There is no migrant labour problem in Mauritius.

During 1958, 86 workers were recruited through the Employment Registration Bureau in accordance with the Emigration Regulations (No. 156 of 1951) to take up employment in Madagascar.

The Emigration Regulations, 1951, as subsequently amended, provide that before leaving the Colony, an emigrant shall obtain an Emigration Certificate from the Regional Controller (Labour Commissioner) of the area in which the emigrant resides, and such certificate shall be granted under certain conditions.

W A G E S

The level of wages is largely determined by the rates prevailing in the sugar industry. In this industry minimum rates of wages for workers of the artisan category (represented by the Artisans and General Workers Union) and for labourers (represented by the Amalgamated Labourers Association) are negotiated by collective bargaining between the two unions and the employers' organisation, the Mauritius Sugar Producers Association. A trade agreement provides for the cost-of-living bonus paid to sugar estate workers to fluctuate with the cost-of-living index prepared by the Labour Department and for a bonus to be paid at the end of the year, based on the size of the crop. The principle of collective bargaining has also been adopted by dock workers, by workers employed by the Central Electricity Board, workers of the artisan category who are members of the Artisans and General Workers Union, and the respective employers' organisations. The wages of workers in some other industries are thought to be sufficiently protected, in general by the agreed rates payable in the sugar industry. In certain industries, however, where the trade union organisation is weak and incapable of fully representing the interests of its members, recourse has been had to orders issued under the Minimum Wages Ordinance. Orders of this nature have been issued in respect of workers in the printing trade, messengers in private firms, female factory workers and road passenger transport workers.

Basic wage rates in the sugar and other industries are subdivided into different categories in accordance with the type of work and the different categories of workers. Typical rates are:

SUGAR INDUSTRY

MONTHLY EMPLOYEES

<i>Labourers</i>	<i>Rs. cs.</i>
Men Class I ...	78 94 per month
Women and Young Persons Class I ...	52 34 do.
Children (under 14 years of age) ...	36 43 do.
<i>Artisans</i>	52 50 to Rs 167 per month

Overtime, sickness allowance, house accommodation, paid holidays, annual leave and maternity allowance are also provided for.

DAILY WORKERS

<i>Labourers</i>	<i>Rs. cs.</i>
Men Class I ...	4 48 per day
Women Class I ...	2 24 do.
Young Persons	1 81 do.
Children (under 14 years of age) ...	1 23 do.
<i>Artisans</i>	4 53 to Rs 6.10 per day

A cost-of-living allowance at the rate of 50% of the basic wage for January, and 46% from 1st February to July and 50% from 1st August to December was paid to all employed in the sugar industry. An end-of-crop bonus, ranging from $\frac{1}{2}$ month to 3 months' wages, was also granted to all monthly-employed depending upon the size of the crop and the price obtained for sugar.

OTHER INDUSTRIES

	<i>Rs. cs.</i>	<i>Rs. cs.</i>
Dock workers	93 50 to 4 00	251 00 per month 15 00 per day
Artisans (Grade II to Grade I) ..	80 00 to 4 00	350 00 per month 10 00 per day
Printing workers	3 75 to	7 50 per day
Salesmen	50 00 to	200 00 per month

The above rates are inclusive of cost-of-living allowance.

GOVERNMENT

The wages of manual workers employed by the Government were revised with effect from the 1st January, 1957. Workers have been grouped in eight categories, of which the five lowest cover the unskilled and semi-skilled, while the higher classes cover the artisans of the civil, mechanical and electrical engineering trades and allied occupations. Supervisors are listed in Class I. The wages thus fixed range from Rs 4.20 a day, the minimum for the lowest class, to Rs 13.10 a day for the highest grade of Supervisors. Comparison with the workers of the sugar industry is difficult in view of a number

of factors such as housing, allowances and other benefits enjoyed by workers in the sugar industry. However, sick leave and annual leave as well as superannuation benefits appear to be more generous in Government employment.

HOURS OF WORK

In all cases where workers are employed upon a time-basis, the working day is of 8 hours, but where employed upon a task or piece-work basis it may be only 5 hours. Government office hours on the basis of the six-day week are from 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. with a half-hour break for lunch. The working hours of the few departments which have adopted the five-day week are from 8.45 a.m. to 4 p.m. Business offices follow more or less the same practice.

COST-OF-LIVING FIGURES

The Labour Department's Cost-of-Living Index* figures for agricultural labourers in the year 1958 were:

January ...	... 147·9	July ...	... 150·9
February ...	... 148·7	August ...	... 149·4
March ...	... 149·1	September ...	... 147·9
April ..	... 151·4	October ...	... 147·4
May ...	... 152·0	November ...	... 147·4
June ...	... 151·6	December ...	... 147·8

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The Labour Department can trace some link in the past with the Office of the Protector of Slaves, for that office was succeeded by the Bureau of the Protector of Immigrants and, when immigration had ceased, the Poor Law Commissioner occupied the building and also administered the Immigration Law. This law was thoroughly revised in 1878, again in 1922, and again in 1938. The same year an Ordinance legalised the existence of industrial associations and the Director of Labour was given certain powers for regulating the settlement of industrial disputes. The Labour Ordinance (Cap. 214) provides for the appointment of a Director of Labour and staff in order to "perform all duties imposed and exercise all powers conferred" on him by this Ordinance. The title of Director of Labour was later changed to that of Labour Commissioner.

* Base 1946 = 100

The Department is administered by the Labour Commissioner, his Deputy and two Assistant Commissioners. The field staff consists of six Labour Officers and nine Labour Inspectors, including one woman officer who is particularly responsible for estate housing conditions.

The duties of the senior officers are distributed functionally, i.e. conciliation, trade union relations and enforcement of safety, health and welfare provisions. The duties of the junior officers are organised on a territorial basis. The district Labour Officers, each of whom is required to follow a Labour Officers' Training Course in the United Kingdom, perform a most important task, they are in close and continuous contact with the mass of the workers, and help the individual worker to understand and make use of the labour laws.

Inspection of camps and factories is regular and thorough. Careful reports are prepared and copies of the relevant portions are sent to the employers concerned, with a request for early action. These letters are followed up by further inspections and a warning of prosecution if no action is taken by the employer. The number of factories registered has also increased considerably.

Many sugar estates house part of their labour force on the estates and a group of such lodgings is called a camp. Under the Labour Ordinance the state of these camps must not fall below a certain standard and it is the duty of the Labour Department to inspect the camps at regular intervals.

SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE

The Safety, Health and Welfare Branch of the Labour Department is under the charge of an Assistant Labour Commissioner with a staff of two Labour Officers and one female Labour Inspector to ensure the safety health and welfare of employees under the Factory and Labour Ordinances.

(1) The Labour Officers enforce:

(a) the general safety provisions regarding fencing of machinery, hoists, vessels containing dangerous liquids, the maintenance of floors and stairs, dangerous fumes in confined spaces, inflammable dust, vapours and substances, fire precautions and the registration of boilers and machinery;

- (b) the general health provisions dealing with cleanliness, overcrowding, space, temperature, ventilation, lighting, drainage and sanitary conveniences;
- (c) the general welfare provisions dealing with messrooms, cloakrooms, washing facilities, wholesome drinking water, sitting facilities and first aid arrangements;
- (d) the general provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance (Cap. 220, as subsequently amended) as far as factories are concerned, and
- (e) the provisions of the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Ordinance (Cap. 211) regarding night work of women and young persons employed in industry and maximum age for admission of children to industrial employment.

(2) The female Labour Inspector is in charge of the inspection of quarters of workers housed by employers and the inspection of estate dispensaries and hospitals where these workers are given free medical attention under the provisions of the Labour Ordinance.

A Safety, Health and Welfare Committee has been appointed and meets from time to time for the discussion of relevant measures.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

The Apprenticeship Ordinance, 1946, provides for the regulation of employment of apprentices and, under this Ordinance, the heavy engineering trade, the automobile repairs and the printing industry have been designated. Apprenticeship Committees meet periodically for the discussion of questions dealing with apprentices and their welfare.

The Employment Registration Bureau, which was opened in 1949, is organized in three main centres and ten sub-centres. The Manager of the Bureau is also the Statistician of the Labour Department. The Bureau has on its staff two placing officers, three interviewing officers, three travelling interviewing officers and eight clerks.

The purpose of the Bureau is to put employers seeking workers in touch with workers seeking employment. The worker is classified on the basis of an evaluation of all his occupational qualifications as shown by work-experience, training and personal characteristics; workers may also be trade-tested whenever necessary and are graded accordingly. Vocational guidance is given to certain categories, especially to demobilised ex-servicemen.

Vacancies in Government departments are normally filled on the advice of the Public Service Commission or, where the salary does not exceed Rs 2,880 p.a., by the promotion of serving officers selected departmentally. Vacancies not filled by promotion and of which the maximum salary is under Rs 2,880 p.a. (excluding Cadet posts) are required to be filled by selection from a short list of candidates supplied by the Employment Registration Bureau.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

There were at the end of June 1958, 58 associations consisting of 24 associations of employees, 9 of employers, 22 of Government servants and three of persons either working for themselves or hiring out their services. The total membership on the rolls is given as 20,647, of which 18,661 were paid-up members.

The most important workers organisations are:

	No. shown on roll	No. who have ceased to be members	No. of members on 30.6.58
Sugar Industry Staff Employees Association	613	10	603
General Port and Harbour Workers' Union	1,531	187	1,344
Government and other Manual Workers' Union	2,076	64	2,012
Artisans and General Workers' Union	1,148	372	776
Government Servants' and other Employees' Association	2,271	439	1,832
Government Teachers' Union ...	149	—	149
Union of Primary School Teachers'	153	24	129
Amalgamated Labourers' Association	5,166	—	5,166
Senior Professional Civil Servants' Association	65	—	65
Agricultural Workers' Union ...	2,255	190	2,065
Government Clerical Service Association	550	—	310

The most important employers' organisations are:

	No. of members on 30.6.58
Sugar Producers' Association	22
Federation of Port and Harbour Employers ...	12
Tobacco Producers' Syndicate	68
Cane Growers Association	37

LEGISLATION

The main legislation affecting labour relations is:—

The Labour Ordinance	Cap. 214
The Labour (Amendment) Ordinance	No. 33 of 1952
The Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Ordinance	Cap. 211, Ordinances No. 43 of 1945, No. 5 of 1952
The Factories Ordinance	No. 42 of 1946
The Shop Hours Ordinance	Cap. 409, Ordinances No. 56 of 1945 and No. 72 of 1946
The Shops (Amendment) Ordinance	No. 9 of 1952
The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance	Cap. 220
The Employment Exchange Ordinance	No. 67 of 1947
The Trade Disputes Ordinance	No. 37 of 1954
The Trade Union Ordinance	No. 36 of 1954
The Apprenticeship Ordinance	No. 13 of 1946
The Recruitment of Workers' Ordinance	Cap. 218
The Emigration Ordinance	Cap. 150
The Emigration Regulations	G. N. 156 of 1951
The Minimum Wages Ordinance	No. 36 of 1950
The Wages Regulation (Printing Trade) Order	G. N. No. 136 of 1952 No. 172 of 1953
The Wages Regulation (Messengers) Order	G. N. No. 4 of 1953 No. 74 of 1958
The Wages Regulation (Female Factory Workers) Order	G. N. No. 27 of 1953
The Wages Regulation (Shopping Trade) Order	G. N. No. 77 of 1955

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The following tables give a comparison under the main heads of revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the years ended 30th June, 1939, 1957, and 1958.

REVENUE

Main Head	Year ended 30th June		
	1939 Rs	1957 Rs	1958 Rs
1. Direct Taxes	1,036,451	42,077,747	49,199,105
2. Indirect Taxes	11,411,317	55,235,266	58,327,445
3. Receipts from Public Utilities ...	1,390,767	10,864,831	11,648,146
4. Receipts from Public Services ...	1,082,113	5,123,520	6,696,268
5. Rental of Government Property ...	229,221	669,441	1,039,434
6. Interest and Royalties	486,474	5,174,701	4,591,731
7. Land Sales	329	25,544	20,222
8. Colonial Development and Welfare	15,858	1,539,404	840,701
9. Development and Welfare	—	1,097,412	—
10. Repayment of Loans and Advances	2,198,308	2,833,432	1,149,342
TOTAL ...	17,850,838	124,641,298	133,512,394

EXPENDITURE

Main Head	Year ended 30th June		
	1939 Rs	1957 Rs	1958 Rs
I.—PRIOR CHARGES			
1. Public Debt	2,292,014	6,430,331	6,458,481
2. Public Service Pensions	1,695,428	6,022,126	5,901,003
3. Defence	935,903	1,829,534	1,845,864
	4,923,345	14,281,991	14,205,348
II.—GOVERNANCE			
4. Governor	82,659	246,847	210,395
5. Central Administration	88,893	1,126,107	3,048,817
6. District Administration	—	300,114	342,314
7. Local Government	—	1,248,959	1,474,961
8. Accountant General	197,112	563,567	630,138
9. Archives	—	97,110	103,633
10. Audit	79,185	255,184	310,834
11. Central Statistical Office	—	177,084	232,832
12. Customs and Excise	—	1,833,210	1,701,296
12a. Customs, Harbour, Port and Marine	613,206	—	—
13. Development Establishment ...	—	185,856	260,913
14. Income Tax	—	439,162	580,065
15. Judicial	402,390	1,233,986	1,483,154
16. Legal	99,564	191,793	258,039
17. Legislature	12,889	424,314	693,134
18. Miscellaneous	1,107,217	1,397,843	4,053,232
19. Police	970,903	5,862,769	7,461,106
20. Printing Office	107,772	607,840	750,540
21. Prisons and Industrial School ...	178,741	1,207,077	1,629,584
22. Registrar General	113,897	294,564	355,082
23. Supplies Control	—	251,643	—
24. Public Works and Surveys Estab- lishment	340,007	1,951,590	2,273,660
	4,394,435	19,896,619	27,853,753

					<i>Year ended 30th June</i>		
					<i>1939</i>	<i>1957</i>	<i>1958</i>
					<i>Rs</i>	<i>Rs</i>	<i>Rs</i>
III.—SOCIAL SERVICES							
25. Co-operative Societies	...	...	...	...	—	212,079	251,056
26. Ecclesiastical...	...	...	...	...	211,914	408,547	459,386
27. Education	...	...	...	...	1,441,412	14,661,645	18,596,750
28. Health	...	...	...	...	1,477,202	11,045,710	13,296,099
29. Labour	...	...	...	...	770,307	487,362	587,097
30. Mauritius Institute	...	...	...	...	17,115	98,121	128,197
31. Public Assistance	...	...	...	...	—	9,519,716	13,908,038
32. Social Welfare	...	...	...	...	—	584,274	616,427
					<u>3,917,950</u>	<u>37,017,454</u>	<u>47,843,050</u>
IV.—PUBLIC UTILITIES AND SERVICES							
34. Agriculture	...	...	...	...	542,286	3,101,245	3,754,865
35. Civil Aviation	...	...	...	...	—	377,420	460,419
36. Telecommunications	...	...	...	...	178,248	1,692,332	1,944,552
37. Fire Services	...	...	...	...	—	803,795	974,891
38. Forests	...	...	...	...	203,331	2,200,455	2,497,449
39. Granary	...	...	...	...	79,421	288,849	315,859
40. Harbour and Quays	...	...	...	...	—	1,151,264	1,364,967
41. Mauritius Broadcasting Service and Globe Renter News Service					—	380,266	443,805
42. Observatory	...	...	...	...	41,543	316,387	394,828
43. Posts and Telegraphs	...	...	...	...	322,521	1,741,741	1,963,603
44. Railways	...	...	...	...	765,444	5,884,316	5,980,288
					<u>2,132,794</u>	<u>17,938,070</u>	<u>20,095,526</u>
V.—INVESTMENT							
45. Public Works Annually Recurrent					1,039,379	7,023,336	6,829,483
TOTAL ORDINARY EXPENDITURE	...				<u>16,407,903</u>	<u>96,157,470</u>	<u>116,827,166</u>
46. Public Works Non-Recurrent	...				228,204	—	—
47. Development Works and Projects	...				—	—	—
48. Loans and Advances	...				—	—	—
49. Reserves	...	...	..	...	—	13,347,502	15,694,364
					<u>228,204</u>	<u>13,347,502</u>	<u>15,694,364</u>
DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE					<u>7,364,832</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	...				<u>24,000,939</u>	<u>109,504,972</u>	<u>132,521,530</u>

PUBLIC DEBT

The Public Debt of the Colony on the 30th June, 1958, was Rs 98,012,341. Against this liability there was an accumulated Sinking Fund of Rs 11,141,187.82.

Local loan issues accounted for Rs 23,857,500 of the Public Debt as detailed below:

	Rs
Agricultural Loan (No. 1) 1937	1,580,000
Agricultural Loan (No. 2) 1937	1,600,000
Mauritius Loan 1961	3,157,500
Mauritius Development and Welfare	
Loan 1971-81	3,072,000
Development (General Purposes) Loan 1964-74	14,448,000
TOTAL	23,857,500

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
(omitting Special Funds deposited in the Public Treasury)

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
	Rs		Rs Rs
Other Governments	34,617	Advances	26,999,026
Deposits	3,947,027	Cash Balance etc. 16,673,143	
Mauritius Development and Welfare Fund	—	Investments	36,848,143
Loan Funds unexpended Reserve Fund	—	Revenue Reserve Fund... ..	19,148,734
General Revenue Balance	41,796,145		72,670,020
Supplementary Sinking Fund	—	Deduct: Balances of Special Funds etc. in the hands of the Accountant General	4,279,815
Capital Fund	44,671,116		68,390,205
Consolidated Sinking Fund	4,940,326		
TOTAL	95,389,231	TOTAL	95,389,231

THE MAIN HEADS OF TAXATION AND
THEIR YIELD

	1956-57	1957-58
	Rs	Rs
Customs :—		
Import Duties... ..	28,471,944	31,247,955
Export Duties... ..	90,090	78,887
Excise duty on Rum	9,722,434	10,262,290
Tobacco Excise	5,388,609	5,050,855
Licence Duties	5,094,413	5,268,391
Income Tax, (Companies and Bodies Corporate)	23,988,753	29,767,753
Income Tax (Others)	15,819,032	17,562,173
Tax on Sweepstakes and Lotteries	1,510,908	1,462,658

THE NATIONAL INCOME FOR 1957 WAS CALCULATED BY THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE
TO BE Rs 630,000,000

Details of calculation are as follows :—

<i>Net National Product</i>	<i>Rs (millions)</i>	<i>National Income Distribution</i>	<i>Rs (Millions)</i>	<i>Net National Expenditure Composition</i>	<i>Rs (millions)</i>
<i>Industrial Origin</i>	<i>%</i>		<i>%</i>		<i>%</i>
1. Agriculture, forestry, hunting, and fishing ...	191	1. Compensation of employees ...	312	1. Private consumption expenditure on goods and services ...	495
2. Mining and Quarrying...	149	2. Income from farms, professions and other unincorporated enterprises received by households ...	108	2. General Government consumption expenditure on goods and services ...	88
3. Manufacturing ...	30	3. Income from property received by households and private non-profit institutions ...	118	3. Net domestic fixed capital formation of private enterprises ...	46
4. Construction ...	30	4. Saving of corporations	49	4. Net domestic fixed capital formation of Government and public enterprises ...	18
5. Electricity, water and sanitary services ...	11	5. Direct taxes on corporations ...	27	5. Net exports of goods and services ...	36
6. Transportation, Storage and Communication ...	87	6. General Government income from property and entrepreneurship ...	23	6. Net factor income payments from rest of the world ...	4
7. Wholesale and Retail Trade ...	58	7. Less Interest on public debt ...	4	7. Net National Expenditure at Market prices ...	687
8. Banking, Insurance and Real Estate ...	9	8. Less Interest on consumers' debt ...	3	8. Less Indirect Taxes ...	57
9. Ownership of dwellings	44			9. Plus Subsidies ...	—
10. Public Administration and Defence ...	16			10. NET NATIONAL EXPENDITURE AT FACTOR COST	630
11. Services ...	58				
12. Gross Domestic Product at factor cost ...	653				
13. Less provision for the consumption of fixed capital ...	27				
14. Net Domestic Product at factor cost ...	626				
15. Plus Net factor income from the rest of the world ...	4				
16. NET NATIONAL PRODUCT AT FACTOR COST..	630	9. NATIONAL INCOME ..	630		
			100.0		100.0

COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF NATIONAL INCOME GROWTH

<i>Year</i>	<i>National Income Rs million</i>	<i>Increase on 1950 per cent</i>	<i>Resident population June 30th in each year</i>	<i>* Actual per capital income Rs</i>	<i>Real per capital income Rs</i>	<i>Increase or decrease per cent</i>
1950 ...	410	—	466,052	880	880	—
1951 ...	465	13	483,859	961	907	+3·1
1952 ...	518	26	502,075	1,032	852	-6·1
1953 ...	583	42	516,525	1,129	918	+7·7
1954 ...	576	40	530,461	1,086	890	-3·1
1955 ...	594	45	549,094	1,082	880	-1·1
1956 ...	621	51	568,886	1,092	867	-1·5
1957 ...	630	54	587,018	1,073	832	-4·0

CUSTOMS TARIFF

The present tariff, which was brought into force by the Customs Tariff Ordinance (No. 26 of 1954), is based on the Standard International Trade Classification. The first schedule to this tariff comprises three main sections: import duties, exemptions, and export duties. Provision is made for the imposition of a preferential tariff on goods produced or manufactured in the United Kingdom and certain other territories, but admission of the goods to preference is dependent on the production of supporting evidence including prescribed certificates of origin and value. In the absence of this information, the general tariff rate is charged.

Export duties are levied on sugar and molasses, and in addition there are small duties imposed on goods exported from bond, goods in transit, and goods reshipped after being landed from distressed vessels.

PACKAGE TAX

A package tax is levied under the Package Tax Ordinance (No. 32 of 1951) on all goods shown in the first schedule thereof, imported and landed at any port in the Colony. This tax is levied at variable low rates.

Exemptions are provided for in the second schedule to the Ordinance.

EXCISE DUTIES

Excise duties are leviable on Colonial spirits (rum), country liquor (Mauritius Fruit Wine), tobacco, matches, spirits used in the manufacture of denatured spirits (except for power purposes), vinegar, tinctures and drugs, and perfumed spirits. The con-

*i.e. income reduced to constant prices (1950).

sumption of rum during the year showed a small increase over the previous year. The revenue collected in respect of country liquor showed a fair increase over the figure for the previous year.

STAMP DUTIES

Stamp duties are of three kinds:

Schedule " A " to the Stamps Ordinance (Cap. 160), specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to a duty in proportion to the size of paper used. The tariff ranges from 30 cents to Rs 1.80.

Schedule " B " specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to a fixed stamp duty. The amounts vary from 10 cents to Rs 18.

Schedule " C " specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to an *ad valorem* duty. These include Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Policies of Insurance, Debentures. The duties are mainly on a sliding scale.

The Stamp Duties collected in respect of impressed paper during the financial year 1957-58 amounted to Rs 677,087.

INCOME TAX

Income Tax is imposed by the provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance, 1950, as subsequently amended.

Various deductions, including capital allowances, are provided by the Ordinance and in the case of individuals, the chargeable income is arrived at after deducting personal reliefs and allowances.

The following schedule shows the rates of tax payable by individuals:

		Chargeable Income Rs		Rate of Tax %
For every rupee	of the first	5,000	...	10
For every rupee	of the next	5,000	...	15
do.	do.	5,000	...	20
do.	do.	5,000	...	30
do.	do.	5,000	...	40
do.	do.	10,000	...	50
do.	do.	15,000	...	60
do.	do.	25,000	...	70
do.	do.	25,000	...	75
Remainder of the chargeable income		...	...	80

The rate of tax applicable to companies is 40% of the amount of chargeable income.

Collections in the year 1957-58 amounted to Rs 47,829,926 as compared with Rs 39,807,785 in 1956-57.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES FINANCES

The undermentioned table gives comparative figures of revenue and expenditure of the four urban local authorities for the last financial year:—

<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Revenue Rs</i>	<i>Expenditure Rs</i>
Municipality of Port Louis (excluding Housing Scheme)	1958	3,364,920	3,179,880
Town Council of Beau Bassin—Rose Hill (excluding Housing Scheme) ...	1957-58	982,618	971,463
Town Council of Quatre Bornes (excluding Housing Scheme) ...	1957-58	425,902	503,373
Town Council of Curepipe (excluding Housing Scheme)	1957-58	868,200	1,009,721

DISTRICT AND VILLAGE COUNCILS

The three District Councils established under Ordinance No. 76 of 1951 and the District Administration for Plaines Wilhems—Black River which started functioning in September, 1955, receive subsidies and grants from the Government which are partly allocated to the Village Councils, according to estimates approved by the District Councils and the District Administration. In addition to any taxation which may be imposed by the Village Councils, the District Councils have the right to levy taxes which do not apply to any particular village, such as advertisement and placard tax and entertainment tax. The total estimates of expenditure for the existing 108 Village Councils amounted to approximately Rs 637,574. Government grants to the District Councils and the District Administration, including subsidies for scavenging and roads, totalled Rs 761,815. Revenue from entertainment tax totalled Rs 79,592.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

CURRENCY

The local unit of currency is the Mauritius Rupee, which is subdivided into 100 cents. The rupee is equivalent to 1s. 6d. sterling.

The notes in circulation are of denominations of Rs 25, Rs 10 and Rs 5. There is in addition a Rs 1,000 note which is legal tender only between the local banks and the Government.

The coins in circulation are the following:

Cupro-Nickel: One Rupee, Half-Rupee, Quarter-Rupee and Ten Cents.

Bronze: 5 Cents, 2 Cents and 1 Cent.

The value of currency in circulation for the last three financial years is given hereunder:

			30th June, 1956 Rs	30th June, 1957 Rs	30th June, 1958 Rs
Notes	...	...	48,550,000	52,890,000	57,530,000
Coins	...	...	3,503,000	3,667,000	3,848,000
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	...	...	52,053,000	56,557,000	61,378,000

LOCAL BANKS

Three trading banks operate in Mauritius: The Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd., The Mercantile Bank Ltd. and Barclays Bank D.C.O.

Savings bank facilities are provided by the Post Office Savings Bank, The Mauritius Agricultural Bank, The Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd., Barclays Bank D.C.O. and The Mercantile Bank Ltd.

Long-term loans for agricultural and housing purposes are provided by the Mauritius Agricultural Bank, while Barclays Overseas Development Corporation Limited undertakes medium-term finance on a commercial basis. There is, however, a lack of financial institutions specialising in long-term loans to individual borrowers for such purposes as housing, although loans against mortgages are obtainable from private sources. The Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank Ltd. provides finance on a seasonal basis for the cultivation requirements of the co-operative credit movement. The Government also provides assistance to local industry in the form of medium term loans.

The Mauritius Commercial Bank was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1838 with a capital of Rs 2,000,000, which was increased to Rs 3,000,000 in 1948 and to Rs 4,000,000 in 1958. The Bank was

registered as a limited liability company in August, 1955. The Bank's head office is in Port Louis with branches at Curepipe, Rose Hill, Mahebourg, Quatre Bornes and Centre de Flacq. Its London Agents are Lloyds Bank Limited. It has correspondents all over the world and is able to offer a complete banking service. The reserves at the 31st December, 1958, stood at Rs 4,583,361.

The Mercantile Bank Limited, formerly the Mercantile Bank of India Limited, took over the business of the Bank of Mauritius Limited on the 31st May, 1916. The paid-up capital of the Bank at the 31st December, 1958, was £2,940,000. Reserve funds and unappropriated profits amounted to £2,431,407. Through its Head Office in London and its branches throughout India, Malaya and the Far East, the Mercantile Bank Limited is able to offer comprehensive banking facilities to the people of Mauritius.

Barclays Bank D.C.O. has its Head Office in London, and over 1,100 branches in Africa, the Mediterranean area, the Caribbean area, England, New York and Hamburg, with correspondents in all other important centres. The paid-up capital of the Bank was £12,932,250 as at the 30th September, 1958, and the Reserve Fund was £10,000,000. The Bank, which is affiliated with Barclays Ltd., was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1836 as the Colonial Bank and reincorporated by Act of Parliament in 1925; the name was then changed to Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) which amalgamated with the Anglo-Egyptian Bank Ltd. and the National Bank of South Africa Ltd. The Port Louis, Mauritius, branch was established by the last named Bank in December, 1919 and was taken over by Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) following the amalgamation. The name of the Bank was changed to Barclays Bank D.C.O. in 1954. There are also branches of the Bank at Curepipe, Rose Hill, Vacoas, Centre de Flacq, Rivière des Anguilles, and Rose Belle. The Bank acts as Agent for Barclays Overseas Development Corporation Ltd., which was formed to assist in the economic development of territories in which the Bank operates and which had a paid-up capital of £6,000,000 on the 30th September, 1958.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK

The Post Office Savings Bank is operated by the Posts and Telegraphs Department. At the 30th June, 1958, the Bank had 70,817 active accounts and 2,096 dormant accounts with a balance

due to depositors of Rs 28,899,512. Savings Bank business is transacted at 31 Post Offices. During 1958 transactions amounted in number and value to 50,802 deposits, totalling Rs 14,036,234 and 52,376 withdrawals, totalling Rs 13,421,700. Accounts are regarded as dormant if no transaction takes place for a period of twenty years.

THE MAURITIUS AGRICULTURAL BANK

The Mauritius Agricultural Bank was established by Ordinance No. 1 of 1936 as a "body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal . . . for the purpose of making long-term loans for agricultural needs." It started its activities in 1937 with a capital of Rs 10,000,000 which was raised by loans, locally and overseas, by Government. Of this amount Rs 436,000 has been reimbursed by the Bank which had also contributed at the 31st December, 1958, Rs 1,469,120 to a sinking fund.

The first change in the constitution of the Bank occurred in 1940 when the minimum for loans (which had been Rs 5,000) was abolished and the Bank was authorised to draw Bills on the Treasury to finance loans for amounts under Rs 5,000.

The Mauritius Economic Commission (1948) recommended that the Bank's capital be increased and the scope of its activities extended to meet the needs of industrial as well as agricultural enterprises. Legislation was passed to this effect and to authorise the Bank to make long-term loans for housing (Ordinance No. 68 of 1950).

In 1949 the Bank was authorised to raise Rs 3,000,000 from the public by the sale of short-term bills. By Ordinance No. 68 of 1950 it was further empowered:

- (a) to raise funds from the public by the issue of long-term debentures, by the issue of subscription debentures payable monthly and quarterly, and by accepting fixed deposits for 12-36 months and saving deposits;
- (b) to arrange long-term loans and bank overdrafts.

One of the objects of authorising the Bank to raise funds from the public was to encourage saving in the Colony and it was hoped that the wide choice of investments would prove attractive. At the 31st December, 1958, there were:

2,223 Savings Accounts for Rs 1,998,311

268 Fixed Deposit Accounts for Rs 2,104,086

201 Accounts for Subscription Debentures for Rs 291,310

At the 31st December, 1958, the Bank had paid out Rs 57,467,248 in loans as follows:

	Rs
For agriculture	43,694,225
For housing	12,711,262
For industry	1,061,756
TOTAL ...	57,467,243

The Bank has been entrusted with the management of the loans granted under the Hurricane Loan Ordinance (1945), the Rehabilitation of Factories and Rolling Stock Ordinance (1949), and the Aloe Fibre Industry (Development) Ordinance (1952). The total amount due by borrowers at the 31st December, 1958, was Rs 47,614,352, of which Rs 36,688,139 consisted of Agricultural Bank loans proper (including Rs 9,382,007 for housing loans), Rs 7,911,874 due by borrowers under the Hurricane Loan Ordinance, Rs 2,839,454 due by borrowers under the Rehabilitation of Factories and Rolling Stock Ordinance, and Rs 174,885 due by borrowers under the Aloe Fibre Industry (Development) Ordinance. The demand for loans since 1950 has been far in excess of the resources of the Bank.

The following is a summary of the Bank's balance sheet as at the 31st December, 1958:

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
	Rs		Rs
Mauritius Government ...	10,539,000	Loans	36,688,139
Debentures and Sub- Debentures	17,291,310	Cash	817,292
Deposits	7,102,397	Investments	1,281,642
Short-term Bills	2,525,100	Other Assets	2,176,663
Internal A/c's and other liabilities	438,166	Sinking Fund Contribu- tions	1,469,120
Sinking Fund	1,469,120		42,432,856
Reserve and Profit and Loss A/c	3,067,763		
	42,432,856		
Funds administered on behalf of the Colonial Government	10,926,213	Hurricane Loan 1945 ...	7,911,874
		Rehabilitation Loans ...	2,839,454
		Aloe Fibre Industry Loans	174,885
TOTAL ...	53,359,069		53,359,069

BANKING STATISTICS

NUMBER OF REPORTING BANKS : 4

Figures for quarter ended 31st December, 1958

LIABILITIES		,000 Rs	ASSETS		,000 Rs
1. Notes in circulation	...	—	1. Cash	...	5,016
2. Deposits :—			2. Balances due by other banks in the Colony	...	8,253
(1) Demand	...	107,802	3. Balances due from banks abroad	...	69,183
(2) Time	...	21,615	4. Loans and advances :—		
(3) Savings	...	10,501	(1) Primary production (including processing of primary products)	...	45,528
3. Balances due to :—			(2) Other industries (including Commerce, Transport and Distribution)	...	30,799
(1) Other banks in the Colony	...	4,473	(3) Other advances	...	18,400
(2) Banks abroad	...	2,087	5. Investment :—		
4. Other Liabilities, etc.	...	77,510	(a) Local	...	6,325
			(b) Other	...	2,498
			6. Other Assets	...	37,986
TOTAL LIABILITIES	...	223,988	TOTAL ASSETS	...	223,988

BANK RATES

The buying and selling rates for telegraphic transfers were at the end of 1958 roughly as under:

	Buying	Selling
BRITISH STERLING		
Under £ 5,000	... Rs 13.25 per £1	... Rs 13.43 per £1
£5,000 and over	... Rs 13.26 ..	... Rs 13.40 ..
CANADIAN DOLLARS	... Rs 4.95 per \$1	... Rs 5.05 per \$1
U.S.A. DOLLARS	... Rs 4.72½ per \$1	... Rs 4.82 per \$1
SOUTH AFRICAN POUNDS		
Under £ 5,000	... Rs 13.20 per £1	... Rs 13.45 per £1
£5,000 and over	... Rs 13.20 ..	... Rs 13.42 ..
AUSTRALIAN POUNDS	... Rs 10.50 per £1	... Rs 10.85 per £1
FRENCH FRANCS		
France	... Rs 1.05 per 100 francs	... Rs 1.20 per 100 francs
C.F.A.	... Rs 2.10 per 100 francs	... Rs 2.40 ..
OTHER CURRENCIES		
India and Pakistan	... At par	... 1 % premium
East Africa	... Rs 66.50 per 100 shs	... Rs 67.15 per 100 shs.

The control of foreign exchange was maintained in 1958 under the Mauritius Exchange Control Ordinance, 1951, which was enacted on the lines of the United Kingdom Exchange Control Act, 1947, and thus ensures similarity of practice in exchange control matters in the Scheduled Territories.

Chapter 5 : Commerce

The commerce of the Colony depends almost entirely on the sugar crop which in 1958 yielded 525,648 metric tons as compared with 562,003 metric tons in 1957. High degree alcohol, a by-product of sugar, is produced mainly for local consumption and the quantity exported in 1958 was negligible. The exportation of molasses, another by-product of sugar, was 59,158 metric tons in 1958, against 72,539 metric tons in 1957 and 52,694 metric tons in 1956. Exports of tea reached 352 metric tons as compared with 441 metric tons in 1957.

A small part of the Colony's demand for foodstuffs is met by local production, namely, meat, sugar, salt, tea, fruit and vegetables, fish (fresh and dried), and coconut oil. Local industries produce cigarettes, matches, aloe-fibre bags for sugar, rum and country liquor. The bulk of the needs of the Colony are met by importing from other countries.

Imports of rice, the staple food of the Colony, reached 70,481 metric tons as compared with 62,080 metric tons in 1957 and 45,101 metric tons in 1956. Frozen meat and wheaten flour were imported mainly from Australia, beef on the hoof from Madagascar, and considerable quantities of foodstuffs from the United Kingdom and the Union of South Africa.

The United Kingdom continues to be the principal source of supply for manufactured goods such as textiles, apparel, machinery, motor vehicles, hardware and electrical goods. Large quantities of cotton piece goods are received from India and large supplies of general merchandise from Hong Kong. Manufactured fertilizers are imported mainly from the United Kingdom, Western Germany and France.

Chapter 5: Commerce

The commerce of the Colony depends almost entirely on the export of which in 1958 yielded 525,648 metric tons as compared with 524,091 metric tons in 1957. High degree alcohol, a by-product of sugar, is produced mainly for local consumption and the quantity exported in 1958 was negligible. The exportation of coconuts, another by-product of sugar, was 59,158 metric tons in 1958 against 72,339 metric tons in 1957 and 52,694 metric tons in 1956. Exports of tea reached 352 metric tons as compared with 411 metric tons in 1957.

A small part of the Colony's demand for foodstuffs is met by local production, namely, meat, sugar, salt, tea, fruit and vegetables (fish (fresh and dried), and coconut oil. Local industries produce matches, aloe-fibre bags for sugar, rum and country goods. The bulk of the needs of the Colony are met by importing from other countries.

Imports of rice, the staple food of the Colony, reached 11,101 metric tons as compared with 62,080 metric tons in 1957. 11,101 metric tons in 1956. Frozen meat and wheaten flour are imported mainly from Australia, beef on the hoof from the United Kingdom and the Union of South Africa.

The United Kingdom continues to be the principal source of manufactured goods such as textiles, apparel, machinery, vehicles, hardware and electrical goods. Large quantities of piece goods are received from India and large supplies of merchandise from Hong Kong. Manufactured fertilizers are largely from the United Kingdom, Western Germany and

DIRECTION OF EXPORT TRADE

	1956 Rs	1957 Rs	
<i>Preferential Tariff Countries</i>			
United Kingdom	223,805,651	231,320,172	2
Australia and New Zealand ...	764,859	443,035	
British East Africa	1,087,157	937,726	
Canada	54,418,168	44,168,042	*
Ceylon	5,936,594	5,347,956	
Hong Kong	91,071	6,186,913	
India	12,831	4,964	
Malaya (including Singapore) ...	2,308,029	1,358,051	
Seychelles	437,398	552,371	
Southern Rhodesia	14,452	12,018	
Union of South Africa	157,845	284,766	
Other Preferential Tariff Countries	14,893	33,105	
TOTAL	289,048,948	290,649,119	*267

<i>General Tariff Countries</i>			
Belgium	24,618	838,000	
France	92,175	61,663	
Germany (Western)	157,859	35,029	
Holland	657,445	383,327	1
Iran	—	8,760,448	3
Italy	83,202	650,377	
Japan	587	15,122,156	
Korea	—	892,599	
Lebanon	4,020	402,560	3
Madagascar	552,379	510,736	6
Morocco	81	—	4
Portuguese East Africa	—	51,721	1
Reunion	467,255	394,265	4
Syria	—	4,023,360	
United States of America	33,063	361,953	5
Other General Tariff Countries	28,516	47,912	1
TOTAL	2,101,200	32,536,106	15,72

Sugar Quota Certificates	6,928,000	7,104,610	7,00
GRAND TOTAL OF EXPORTS	298,078,148	330,289,835	*290,70

DIRECTION OF IMPORT TRADE

	1956 Rs	1957 Rs	1958 Rs
<i>Preferential Tariff Countries</i>			
United Kingdom	76,177,340	93,618,041	108,138
Aden	1,459,232	607,731	44
Australia and New Zealand ...	13,900,941	17,706,636	21,709
Bahrein	2,443,132	239,162	480
British East Africa	3,940,220	4,159,177	3,584
British West Indies	221,344	322,041	250
Burma	15,614,452	35,219,578	30,402
Carried over	113,756,661	151,872,366	164,610

* Provisional

DIRECTION OF IMPORT TRADE—*continued*

		1956	1957	1958
		Rs	Rs	Rs
<i>Brought forward</i> ...		113,756,661	151,872,366	164,610,260
Canada		529,694	572,142	807,030
Ceylon		145,719	163,828	593,612
Cyprus		39,400	22,056	40,581
Eire		24,077	8,688	536,892
Hong Kong		3,739,069	5,029,891	5,906,647
India		23,422,530	14,012,582	12,309,672
Malaya (including Singapore) ...		3,590,251	4,232,192	3,695,289
Pakistan		1,215,201	88,576	358,792
Southern Rhodesia		667,034	274,843	649,115
Seychelles		409,187	458,959	585,209
Union of South Africa		13,628,481	19,736,717	17,721,946
Other Preferential Tariff Countries		61,609	71,100	174,712
TOTAL		161,228,913	196,543,940	207,989,157
<i>General Tariff Countries</i>				
Belgium		12,789,745	6,665,550	4,039,739
Chile		2,297,016	—	—
Czechoslovakia		693,273	524,052	571,201
Denmark		389,146	555,692	329,999
Ethiopia		762,865	1,396,612	1,053,913
France		8,070,945	11,788,314	11,339,848
Germany		10,845,056	9,339,166	12,568,556
Holland		2,488,818	3,366,224	4,061,342
Hungary		106,847	189,203	116,613
Iran		5,638,754	9,844,050	7,859,742
Italy (including Sicily)		1,848,350	772,160	7,685,603
Japan		2,665,911	3,853,443	8,072,103
Luxembourg		159,456	764,326	411,691
Madagascar		2,880,113	2,785,081	2,672,026
Morocco		527,779	324,605	83,883
Netherlands West Indies		227,515	43,036	21,116
Norway		187,246	330,983	295,691
Poland		270,789	306,133	109,097
Portugal		534,568	918,356	850,097
Portuguese East Africa		2,193,766	361,298	3,044,427
Russia		12,758	9,473	20,004
Saudi Arabia		354,609	150	1,474,683
Siam		1,846,270	2,974,112	9,154,029
Spain		124,549	186,642	135,842
Sudan		935,071	119	88,038
Sweden		750,972	1,089,299	1,434,776
Switzerland		832,026	919,221	1,152,318
United States of America		4,312,626	5,815,100	9,900,822
Yugoslavia		806	854	37
Other General Tariff Countries ...		2,024,371	1,837,538	2,302,628
TOTAL		66,792,016	66,960,792	90,849,864
BAGGAGE		128,553	313,156	379,232
GRAND TOTAL OF IMPORTS ...		228,149,482	263,817,888	299,218,253

TRADE FIGURES

I—IMPORTS

Principal Imports	1956 Total = Rs 228,149,482			1957 Total = Rs 263,817,883			1958 Total = Rs 299,218,253			Main Countries of Supply
	Quantity	C.I.F. Value Rs		Quantity	C.I.F. Value Rs		Quantity	C.I.F. Value Rs		
Rice	45,101 M. Tons	27,364,130	...	62,081 M. Tons	36,090,141	...	70,481 M. Tons	44,113,853	...	Burma, Siam, Italy.
Wheaten flour	17,012 "	6,463,583	...	19,269 "	7,927,083	...	25,396 "	11,076,799	...	Australia, Western Germany and France.
Other grain and grain products	7,950 "	5,424,423	...	9,470 "	5,710,373	...	9,651 "	5,892,916	...	Australia, India, Union of South Africa.
Cattle and meat	—	4,124,671	...	—	3,996,887	...	—	4,473,161	...	Ethiopia, Burma.
Edible oils and fats	5,281 "	8,805,960	...	6,452 "	12,142,028	...	5,667 "	9,247,412	...	Madagascar (cattle), Australia and Kenya (Meat).
Beverages	—	2,946,963	...	—	3,455,529	...	—	4,011,623	...	Uganda, Union of South Africa, India, Portuguese East Africa, Singapore, United Kingdom and France.
Coal	19,376 "	1,531,753	...	17,255 "	1,715,095	...	18,870 "	1,372,586	...	United Kingdom, France, Union of South Africa, Holland and Singapore.
Petroleum products	—	12,522,851	...	—	13,098,546	...	—	11,716,292	...	Union of South Africa.
Wood and wood manufactures	—	4,848,473	...	—	5,191,097	...	—	5,262,438	...	Iran, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Union of South Africa, U. S. America, United Kingdom.
Gunny bags	3,245,253 No.	3,885,059	...	2,437,046 No.	2,837,019	...	2,450,408 No.	2,507,851	...	Malaya, Singapore, Burma, Siam, Australia and Sweden.
Cotton piece goods	6,345,202 sq. ins.	8,467,208	...	10,553,505 sq. ins.	12,498,036	...	8,474,683 sq. ins.	10,698,110	...	India.
Silk piece goods	2,213,935	3,753,162	...	2,279,956	3,634,609	...	3,440,058	4,814,732	...	United Kingdom, India, Japan and Hong Kong.
Woolen piece goods	160,008 "	1,872,371	...	156,053 "	1,647,985	...	204,718 "	2,311,081	...	United Kingdom, Japan and India.
Vehicles:			...			...			...	United Kingdom.
(a) Motor cars	471 No.	3,280,655	...	728 No.	5,238,833	...	902 No.	6,404,441	...	United Kingdom, Western Germany.
(b) Other	—	4,643,282	...	—	5,634,792	...	—	7,529,620	...	United Kingdom.
(c) Slaps, aircraft and accessories	—	913,473	...	—	676,034	...	—	674,754	...	United Kingdom.
Cement	38,135 M. Tons	5,365,909	...	42,987 M. Tons	6,307,414	...	—	431,902	...	Western Germany and United Kingdom.
Machinery other than electric	2,052 "	10,804,254	...	3,156 "	15,601,760	...	51,455 M. Tons	6,740,772	...	United Kingdom, Union of South Africa and Japan.
Electrical goods	—	8,022,110	...	—	11,145,862	...	4,181 "	26,073,120	...	United Kingdom, United States of America and France.
Iron and steel goods	11,692 "	14,003,818	...	15,985 "	18,988,864	...	—	17,022,440	...	United Kingdom, France and Western Germany.
Manures and Fertilizers	52,141 "	16,605,122	...	47,948 "	15,087,314	...	15,304 "	17,667,484	...	United Kingdom, Belgium, Western Germany, France, Australia, Japan.
Paper and paper manufactures	1,134 "	2,538,186	...	1,301 "	2,878,896	...	46,589 "	13,127,612	...	United Kingdom, Belgium, Western Germany, France, Holland, Eastern Germany, Seychelles and Madagascar.
			...			...	1,552 "	3,278,601	...	United Kingdom, Western Germany, Sweden, Czechoslovakia.

II.—Exports*

Principal Exports	1956			1957			1958			Main Countries of Destination
	Quantity	F.O.B. Value Rs	Quantity	F.O.B. Value Rs	Quantity	F.O.B. Value Rs	Quantity	F.O.B. Value Rs		
(a) Domestic Exports	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(b) Sugar Quota Certificates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(c) Re-Exports	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	...	298,078,148	...	330,289,835	...	290,708,055	...	...	...
Sugar	539,978 M.Tons	282,379,233†	585,603 M.Tons	307,701,937†	522,752 M.Tons	271,923,136†	United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, Iran, Lebanon, Morocco, Malaysia and Singapore.	...	...
Molasses	52,694 "	3,403,043	72,539 "	5,387,852	59,158 "	4,875,066	United Kingdom, Holland, Belgium, New Zealand, Japan, and United States.	...	...
Rum	255 Hectols	21,171	308 Hectols	25,553	131 Hectols	12,881	Hong Kong and Seychelles.	...	...
Aloe Fibre	99 M.Tons	49,811	—	—	—	—	Belgium, France and Western Germany.	...	...
Tea	152 "	818,422	441 M.Tons	2,271,899	352 M.Tons	2,347,021	United Kingdom, Union of South Africa and New Zealand.	...	...

* Excluding exports of bullion and specie which amounted to Rs. 60,000 in 1956.

† Provisional.

‡ Excluding Value of Sugar Quota Certificates.

Chapter 6 : Production

LAND UTILISATION AND WATER CONSERVATION

Mauritius covers an area of 460,800 acres, of which about 206,000 acres are under cultivation of a very efficient type as compared with many colonial territories. Beyond the crops from this land the Island produces little else with which to meet the requirements of a population numbering about 610,000 at a density of about 840 per square mile. The cultivable area consists mainly of sugarcane (192,950 acres); it includes Mauritius Hemp and lands earmarked for development under tea but does not include either economic forestry or other tree plantations (18,775 acres). Forests and forest plantations, woodlands, mountain, river and natural reserves and scrub total 184,300 acres. Built-up areas, roads, water bodies and open spaces cover 21,900 acres.

The central and elevated part of the Island, above the 100" isohyet, is mostly covered with forest and scrub land to protect and regulate the water resources. In this area cultivation, except for tea, is not very conspicuous. No laws specially protecting this natural watershed exist except those giving protection to Mountain and River Reserves.

The main upland water catchment area is mostly Crown property and utilized for the production of forest produce, fuel and fodder, with a limited acreage under tea and other crops. Water resources are mainly dependent on the incidence of nearby cyclonic disturbances bringing rain, most of which falls in the hot season or in the heavy downpours accompanying cyclonic disturbances. Several reservoirs have been constructed in order to hold this water for utilization, both for domestic and irrigation purposes and for the production of electrical energy and further progress in this direction continues.

LAND OWNERSHIP

In the early days of French colonization, land was conceded to settlers almost all over the Island. Later, land ownership was governed by the French Civil Code or "Code Napoléon", which is still in force. This provides for equal division of property among the heirs often resulting ultimately, in the case of land, in excessive fragmentation. The demand for land is accentuated by the rapid growth of population, leading to the inflation of land values. Grouping of estates into companies has checked fragmentation for the bulk of the land, although for a time speculation led to a system

of parcelling known as "morcellement" when large tracts of land were purchased and sold again in numerous small lots.

LAND TENURE

The Island was uninhabited when first colonized. Its original permanent settlers were the French who, through the grant of concessions, became the original freehold owners of all the land except Crown Lands. At present, apart from Crown Lands, including Crown forests and the "Pas Géométriques" which total 83,000 acres, the land is owned in large or small lots by all sections of the community. Roughly 75% is owned by companies and private estates, the remainder being the property of the Indo-Mauritian section of the population. In addition to freehold tenure, land is also held lease-hold and on share-cropping agreements.

Leasehold tenure is practised to a limited extent on privately-owned lands and on Crown Lands. In the case of Crown Lands, leasing is generally by auction to the highest bidder, but it may also be by contract, leases varying from 3 to 30 years with security of tenure to satisfactory tenants. Various types of share-cropping in the form of "métayage" exist.

RENTING SYSTEM

Rentals are either cash, crop-sharing or "Taungya". Cash rentals are payable monthly, quarterly or annually; in crop-sharing the proportion of the crop handed over as rental varies according to circumstances and the nature of the crop; under the "Taungya" system, which is adopted in tree plantations, especially in Crown forest areas, the tenant is permitted to grow vegetables or annual crops between the young trees provided he keeps the trees clear of weeds and fills up the gaps. This is a temporary system, as cultivation is discontinued as soon as the trees are developed.

LAND AND WATER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

These include provision for:

- (a) increased reservoir construction both for domestic and irrigation purposes, the latter leading to increased cultivation of land;
- (b) increased generation of electrical power.

LAND SETTLEMENT

About 70 years ago the process of parcelling land known as "morcellement", referred to above, began. In the years which followed it gained momentum until some thirty years ago, when after a last short spurt, it practically ceased to operate. This has

LAND TENURE

RENTING SYSTEM

AND WATER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

LAND SETTLEMENT

resulted in the automatic, if unorganized, settlement on the part of a large number of peasant proprietors who, by thrift, have become owners of their own plots of land in many localities of the district. In recent years organized settlement was attempted on a small scale and to-day four completed settlement projects exist covering an area of 550 acres and occupied by 50 residential and 200 agricultural residential tenants.

The size of the holdings varies from less than half an acre to over five acres. On the larger holdings housing facilities have been provided whereas tenants of the smaller holdings usually reside in the neighbouring villages. In general, however, the building of a house on the small holdings by the tenants themselves is encouraged. In some cases the larger size holdings provide full time occupation for the tenants and their families, whilst tenants of smaller holdings are employed on part time employment for cash on surrounding plantations.

All tenants of settlement projects are members of Coop Societies, this being a condition of tenancy.

Plans are well advanced for the extension of the Palmar
ment by 200 acres and Petit Sable settlement by 75 acres.
allotment projects at Bémannique and Plaisance cover a total
of about 800 acres. Allotments are at present limited to a max
of two acres.

There are no laws relating specifically to land for settlement purposes. Where suitable Crown land is not available in any area, the Government can use the powers conferred by the Land Acquisition Ordinance (No. 77 of 1952) to acquire land.

AGRICULTURE

Department of Agriculture

At the 31st December, 1958, the permanent and pension staff of the Department numbered 268 as follows:

<i>Division</i>	<i>New post</i>	<i>Vacancies</i>
Administrative Division	24	—
Agricultural Division	51	4
Tea Division	13	—
Plant Pathology Division	6	1
Entomological Division	5	—
Agricultural Chemistry Division... ..	9	3
Engineering Division	8	1
Central Board Division	14	1
Agricultural College Division	15	2
Rodriguez Division (attached to Agricultural Division)	15	5
Fisheries Division	63	—
Livestock Division	45	—
TOTAL	268	21

The general policy of the Department of Agriculture is to promote the most efficient use of all lands available for and capable of cultivation and to foster the most efficient production of livestock and livestock products. With this in view the primary objective is the training of technical staff for the Department of Agriculture, the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute, the Sugar Industry and the other agricultural interests of the Island. Training is given in the first instance at the College of Agriculture which provides a three-year course. For the purposes of the Department of Agriculture a programme of study leave enables local officers to be trained overseas to meet requirements for specialist and senior professional staff.

The second objective is the provision of an Agricultural Extension Service which makes readily available to the farmer assistance and advice and translates into general agricultural practice the information obtained from the experimental stations.

Associated with both the foregoing objectives is the development of experimental stations in each of the major climatic zones of the Colony for the purpose of investigating crops, stocks and methods suited to the particular areas.

The sugar industry is the main source of wealth and employment in the Colony and Government policy is to encourage development of that industry to the limits imposed by overseas markets. The industry has its own Research Institute, which covers research in both the field and factory aspects of sugar cane.

The Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Sugar Industry Research Institute, undertakes extension work in regard to small planters, having as one of its principal aims the raising of small planters' yields to a figure more comparable with that of the estates. The Department also maintains a plant inspection service to prevent introduction of new pests and diseases, controls the Cane Quarantine Greenhouse and administers the Central Cane Arbitration Board.

The development of secondary industries has long been an important item of the Department's policy and everything is done to encourage the development of the tea, tobacco and fibre industries, and small planters are encouraged to produce cash vegetable and food crops. Encouragement of local production of meat and milk within the limits imposed by the restricted availability of land for fodder and pasture is an item of policy which is implemented in several ways, the chief of which are the improvement of the milk

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The Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Sugar Industry Research Institute, undertakes extension work in regard to planters, having as one of its principal aims the raising of planters' yields to a figure more comparable with that of the rest of the world. The Department also maintains a plant inspection service for the introduction of new pests and diseases, controls the Cane Cane Greenhouse and administers the Central Cane Arbitration Board.

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breed of cattle characteristic of Mauritius and the maintenance of an island-wide artificial insemination service.

Fisheries policy comprises conservation of the lagoon and the development of off-shore fishing and investigation of ponds for the production of fresh-water fish.

The Board of Agriculture, Fisheries and Natural Resources studies all matters of policy and makes recommendations to the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.

Sugar

Mauritius is naturally best adapted for the production of sugar which is the staple of the Island. The whole of the production, with the exception of some 20,000 tons consumed locally, is exported, mainly to the United Kingdom but Canada is also an important buyer of Mauritian sugar.

Corrected figures for production in the three preceding years are as follows:—

	<i>Metric tons</i>		
1955	533,341 (record)
1956	572,512 (record)
1957	562,003
<i>Annual average</i>	555,952

In 1958 the production of sugar amounted to 525,648 tons obtained from an harvested area of about 181,440 acres. The average yield of cane per acre over the whole Island was 23.9 tons. Sugar extraction was 12.14% compared with 12.1% in 1957. The production of sugar per acre was approximately 2.3 tons, considerably less than the figure of 3.18 tons per acre obtained in 1957.

Although an important proportion of cane lands is in peasant ownership, mostly Indo-Mauritian, the bulk of the cane is produced on the plantation scale. The larger plantation factories produced about 59% of the total crop. The smaller peasant owners, some 15,000 of whom cultivate altogether about 19% of the land under cane, often work their land with the assistance of families, employing extraneous labour at peak times such as planting and when harvesting. Many of these small planters have grouped themselves into co-operative societies for the purpose of consigning their canes to factories.

The cane was milled in 1958 in 25 factories, most of which are company-owned.

The whole of the sugar produced is marketed by the Mauritius Sugar Syndicate. Since the War the price of Commonwealth sugar has been fixed year by year under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement. The negotiated price quota exportable under the terms of the Agreement remained at 335,000 long tons whilst the overall exportable quota, which includes the above figure, was fixed at 470,000 long tons. In addition to this overall quota, Mauritius was granted under the International Sugar Agreement a quota of 25,000 long tons in respect of sales to the free market.

The Commonwealth Sugar Agreement has been extended for a further year and will now run to the end of 1965.

Exports of sugar for the calendar year 1958 were as follows:

					<i>Long Tons</i>
U.K.	...	...	...	...	421,116
Canada	...	...	...	...	59,140
Malaya	...	...	...	...	4,729
Singapore	...	...	...	...	2,250
Hong Kong	...	...	...	...	1,250
Iran	...	...	...	...	8,824
Seychelles	...	...	...	...	965
Lebanon	...	...	...	...	9,185
Morocco	...	...	...	...	9,988
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	517,447

Locally, cane is purchased by factories on the basis of two-thirds of the sugar and by-products going to the grower under contracts which are subject to the control of the Central Board. This Board functions as part of the organisation of the Department of Agriculture.

Exports of molasses to the United Kingdom, the U.S.A. and five other countries amounted to 59,158 metric tons, whilst the production of alcohol in 1958 amounted to 1,793,937 litres (100° G.L.) against 1,559,000 in 1957. The greater part of that production was used locally as rum, denatured spirits and power alcohol whilst 14,961 litres were exported to Hong Kong and Seychelles.

Industrial Crops

Three other crops are grown industrially, but on a small scale compared with sugarcane. These are tea, tobacco, and aloe fibre.

Tea

At 1,924,658 lbs the Colony's production of tea showed a disappointingly small increase of about 31,000 lbs as compared with 1957.

Corrected figures for exports for the three preceding years are as follows:—

		<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
1955	...	175.618	387,167
1956	...	152.439	336,067
1957	...	440.552	971,241

In 1958 exports declined to 351.82 metric tons or 775,622 lbs, of which 712,318 lbs were absorbed by the United Kingdom. The year closed with an average price of Mauritius teas at the London auctions of 3/7.32d per lb as compared with 3/4.37d per lb in 1957.

Since the inception of a Government-sponsored project to develop the Mauritian tea industry, 1,350 acres of waste land have been cleared for tea production. Of this 1,050 acres have been planted with approved strains of imported seed.

In the context of general reorganization and rationalization of the old-established section of the industry, a noteworthy step was taken at the beginning of the year when Government entered into a managing agency agreement with the Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Company Limited. A newly formed subsidiary of that Company then took over management of the Government's Midlands Tea Estate (500 acres already planted) and the construction of a new Government tea factory was put in hand.

Tobacco

Tobacco was grown on 1,006 acres in 1958, an increase of 137 acres as compared with 1957. Of this area 643 were under Virginian varieties and the remainder under Amarello. The total production was 466 metric tons.

Tobacco is almost entirely grown in small plots, for the most part by peasant cultivators. 54,768 kilos of air-cured Amarello of a value of Rs 163,884 were exported to the United Kingdom and the Continent. Producers received, on the average, Rs 6.17 per kilo for Virginian flue-cured and Rs 5.48 per kilo for Amarello flue-cured tobacco; air-cured leaf sold at Rs 2.53 per kilo.

The quality of locally produced Virginian tobacco is improving steadily and the quantity of Virginian flue-cured leaf imported for admixture with domestic leaf for the manufacture of the better type of cigarette is consequently decreasing. Cigarettes of lower grades are made entirely of domestic Amarello leaf. Mauritius can produce flue-cured Virginian tobacco of good colour and aroma, but because of the relatively small acreage which can be put under cultivation it is not likely that it will be possible to supply sufficiently large quantities to obtain a footing on the overseas market.

The area annually grown is determined by the Tobacco Board, an officially constituted body, on which sit representatives of the various interests concerned. Closely connected with it is the Tobacco Warehouse which receives, grades, processes, bales, stores and sells all the tobacco produced in the Colony.

Fibre

Fibre is produced in Mauritius mainly from the *Furcraea Gigantea* plant, also known as "Mauritian Hemp" or "Aloe". It is a hard-leaf fibre resembling sisal which is also grown to some extent. *Furcraea* thrives mostly in wild-growing plantations, mainly along the drier coastal belt. The yield of a wild plantation is roughly reckoned at half a ton of fibre per acre per year while that of a regular plantation is estimated at $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons.

The fibre is extracted from the leaves by scraping in decorticators. These decorticators are of different types, but the majority are now modified versions of the "Raspador". Although in the past leaf-feeding to these machines was exclusively done by hand, mechanical feeding has been adopted in some cases as it dispenses with skilled labour, enables a greater output and produces a cleaner fibre. The green fibre obtained is washed and retted for 2 to 4 days after which it is washed, sun-dried, brushed and baled.

During the last five years fibre production averaged 1,700 tons a year (1,600 for the last three years). Nearly the whole quantity was absorbed by the Government Sack Factory for processing into bags for the transportation of sugar.

Twenty-one fibre factories were in operation in 1958. Production amounted to 1,576 tons.

The Sack Factory absorbed 1,570,120 kgs of fibre in 1958, including brush fibre, tow and cuttings, for the production of:

- 1,422,659 sacks of 80 kgs holding capacity (each weighing 1,010 grms)
- 24,893.5 yards of filter cloth
- 13,729.5 kgs of yarn for the manufacture of ropes
- 1,966 yards of other products
- 9,878 kilos of ropes

In the past, brushed and unbrushed fibre were used at the Sack Factory but as a result of extensive experiments only brushed fibre, tow and cuttings are now processed, the cuttings being submitted separately to a special softening treatment before processing.

All the fibre produced in the Island is handled by the Mauritius Hemp Producers Syndicate, which grades, bales, stores and sells the fibre. For the Sack Factory the fibre is graded as "Very Good" or "Good" or "Tow" and "Cuttings" and all fibre has to be brushed. At one time the surplus fibre not absorbed by the Sack Factory found a ready market abroad, but owing to the fall in price of jute no overseas buyer has been found for Mauritius fibre in recent years.

FOOD CROPS

With the exception of fresh fruits, vegetables and such field crops like potatoes, beans and maize which are produced in fair quantities, Mauritius imports all its food requirements.

Some 9,400 acres of foodcrops were cultivated during the year, mostly by small farmers, yielding approximately 56,000 tons of marketable produce.

The Extension Service of the Agricultural Department help the small farmers to improve their methods, which in general leave considerable room for improvement. Practical demonstrations are regularly given in farmers' fields and permanent demonstration plots exist at the District Agricultural Centres. The first of the eight centres to be established under the Island's Capital Expenditure Programme was inaugurated in August, 1958.

Considerable progress has been made by small farmers in the control of diseases and pests attacking their crops. A new pest, the tomato fruit fly, made its appearance towards the end of 1958. This pest has no doubt been accidentally introduced from the neighbouring territory of Réunion, where its presence was reported some 9 years ago.

Marked success has been achieved in the control of the bean fly, which for a long time had prevented the production of beans during the warmer part of the year.

The agricultural equipment belonging to the former Food Production Board, which was transferred in 1954 to the Sugar Planters' Mechanical Agricultural Pool, an organisation formed to assist planters towards fuller mechanisation and maintained by funds obtained from the Sugar Industry Rehabilitation Fund established under the Sugar Industry Reserve Funds Ordinance (No. 3 of 1948), continued to be available to the Department of Agriculture for use on its experimental stations and development projects, as well as for the clearing of Crown lands leased for food crop cultivation.

LIVESTOCK

The main livestock of the Colony consists of milk cattle and goats. There are a small number of sheep and some 7,000 pigs. A census of the cattle population was taken in 1956 and the figures compared with those of the 1950 census are given below:

Milk cattle :—				1950	1956
Young animals	...	...	...	16,971	19,985
Cows	...	...	...	14,546	16,657
Bulls	...	...	...	626	1,487
TOTAL				32,143	38,039
Herd cattle	...	...	...	5,070	2,225
Draft cattle	...	...	...	3,069	1,904
TOTAL BOVINES				40,282	42,168

The goat population is subject to great fluctuations from year to year. It is estimated to be about 50,000 at present. The milk cattle population has increased from 1950 by just over 18%. The herd and draft cattle have decreased largely as a result of greater mechanisation, especially in regard to the transport of sugar cane.

The livestock products are mostly milk and beef. The meat is supplied partly by cattle imported from Madagascar and the difference—to the extent of some 7,000 head—comes from local sources. There is no record of the total milk production, but it may be estimated to lie between half a gallon and one gallon per cow per day. Total production is much below requirements and the difference to some extent is made up by imported dried milk. There is thus ample scope for increasing production and to this end the breeding and feeding programmes of the Department of Agriculture are directed. It should be possible eventually to double milk production, probably by better management alone.

The programme for the improvement of cattle comprises selection within the "Indigenous" breed of Creole cattle, which has been shown to be capable of milk yield, under good conditions of management, of over 700 gallons per lactation.

Newcastle Disease vaccine for poultry is now produced at the Department of Agriculture and its continuous application has had great beneficial effects.

Water supply is no problem, Mauritius being generally speaking a well-watered island throughout the year.

FISHERIES

The control of the Mauritius fisheries is exercised by a Fisheries Division placed under the Director of Agriculture. This consists of a

Fisheries Officer and an inspectorate of 59 inspectors and guards who are responsible for the enforcement of the laws regulating fisheries, the collection and establishment of statistics, and the study and implementation of all new measures required for the better protection of the stock, to improve the efficiency of the industry, for the welfare of the fishing community.

The Department has given considerable attention to an aspect of production new to Mauritius, namely, the farming of fresh-water fish for the production of food rich in protein which is deficient in the diet of most classes of the population.

Fishing is practised in the lagoon surrounding most of the Island, which covers an area of about 95 square miles and on the offshore shelf, to the 100 fathoms line, which is extensive in the northern part forming a bank of about 200 square miles with an average depth of 35 fathoms. About 1,800 fishermen with some 900 light fishing boats and a number of deep-sea pinnaces, together produce an annual catch of some 2,000 tons.

Usually middlemen supply craft and gear to the fishermen who in return sell their catch to them at an agreed price. The middleman is expected to make advances during periods of forced idleness.

The local catch is entirely consumed locally. The price varies with the abundance of fish; it is generally lower during the summer months when more fish is caught.

Oyster Culture

Attention is being given to the development of oyster production by modern methods. An expert visited the Island to study the local conditions which appear to be suitable. It is hoped that it may be possible to increase the annual yield which hitherto has been derived only from natural oyster beds.

F O R E S T R Y

(a) *Areas of different types of forest.* The statement below gives particulars of different types of forest areas in Mauritius:

Crown Forest Estate

<i>A. Areas potentially productive</i>					<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Total area in acres</i>
(a) Plantations of exotics	...	...	...	...		10,032
(b) Area suitable and available for economic forestry :						
(i) Mountain Reserves	...	...	...	...	3,140	
(ii) National Reserves	...	...	...	...	2,994	
(iii) Catchment areas	...	...	...	...	5,009	
(iv) Other areas	...	...	...	...	12,589	
<i>Carried over</i>						33,764

					Acreage	Total area in acres
Brought forward					...	33,764
B. Areas potentially unproductive						
(i) Mountain Reserves	...	...	...	...	14,843	
(ii) National Reserves	...	...	...	...	1,220	
(iii) Catchment areas	...	...	...	...	5,035	
						21,098
C. Areas leased and not available for forestry						12,560
						67,422
Leased Crown Lands in the Coastal belt of 250 (French) feet (Pas Géométriques)						
(i) Tree Plantations (mainly Casuarina equisetifolia)...					4,400	
(ii) Rocky grazing lands with trees	...	...	...	...	1,100	
						5,500
Privately owned forested lands						
(i) Mountain Reserves	} Protected by law	...	...	{	9,000	
(ii) River Reserves					6,500	
						15,500
(iii) Forest Lands	} Not protected by law	...	...	{	5,800	
(iv) Scrub					93,900	
						99,700
					TOTAL=	120,700
					GRAND TOTAL=	188,122

(b) Policy and methods of management

The Crown Forest Estate. The forest policy of the Government of Mauritius may be briefly summarised as follows:

- (i) To reserve in perpetuity sufficient land either already forested or capable of afforestation in order to safeguard and maintain water supplies, preserve the climatic and physical conditions of the Colony, prevent erosion and the sitting up of reservoirs, provide forest produce for domestic, agricultural and industrial requirements and to maintain soil stability where the land is liable to deterioration if put to other uses;
- (ii) to manage this Forest Estate so as to obtain the best returns on its capital value and the expenses of management, in so far as such returns are consistent with the primary aims set out above;
- (iii) to set aside in perpetuity as 'National Reserves' suitable areas of the native forests of Mauritius and to preserve such areas in their natural state by controlling, and preventing if possible, the intrusion and establishment of other-than-native trees and plants;

- (iv) to encourage and assist the practice of sound forestry by private enterprise, and to educate selected Mauritians in technical forestry.

In regard to the Crown Forest Estate, it has not yet been found possible to undertake the essential preliminary operations upon which must be based *a Working Plan* for the forests of Mauritius setting out the detailed manner in which the forests will be managed so that they may produce a sustained annual yield of produce in perpetuity and in conformity with the policy outlined above. Until the Working Plan is prepared and approved, all operations must be conducted on a year-to-year basis.

(c) *Organisation of the forestry industry.* The Forest Department is directly responsible for the management of the Crown Forest Estate; all silvicultural and exploitation operations within it are conducted by the Department which is directly exploiting, converting and selling all forest produce deriving from it. Privately owned forested lands other than those protected by law are managed by individual owners and in the course of the year under review many owners have undertaken quite extensive replanting operations. All forest produce deriving from exploitation operations is consumed locally.

Within privately-owned forested lands protected by law, i.e. Mountain and River Reserves, no felling or forestry operations of any kind may be carried out without the approval of the Government, such approval being given only in exceptional circumstances and as a general rule restricted to the removal of dead and fallen timber.

(d) *Initial processing of timber, sawmills.* Felling and logging is carried out by means of the saw and the axe. The preference of the professional woodcutter for working on his own is very marked and the use of the axe, rather than saw and axe combined in felling—logging operations, preponderates and results in much avoidable waste. Several types of cross-cutting saw have been introduced and demonstrated but so far attempts to persuade woodcutters to work in teams have been unsuccessful. Timber is manhandled from stump to roadside and from there transported by lorries to sawmills, of which there are 72 in the Island, the majority inadequately powered.

(e) *Marketing of produce.* Timber from the Crown Forest Estate is sold either in the round or in converted form at the three Government Timber Stores at Port Louis, Rose Hill and Curepipe, managed by the Department. Fuel from the Crown Forest Estate is converted departmentally and sold in the forests to individual

purchasers who remove it by lorry. A considerable quantity of fuel is converted into charcoal in the forests, the finished product being removed to and sold at Government Timber Stores.

Produce from private-owned forests is generally sold standing to dealers in timber, firewood and charcoal, but some owners conduct their own exploitation operations.

The retail prices of forest produce from the Crown Forest Estate are appreciably lower than those charged by private traders and sawmillers.

Forest Produce Exploited from Crown Forest Estate. The following tables give particulars of forest produce exploited on Crown Forest Lands during 1958.

	<i>Cubic feet</i>
<i>(a) Hardwoods :</i>	<i>Log Volume</i>
(i) Eucalyptus	73,947.08
(ii) Camphor (<i>Camphora Officinarum</i>)	2,889.85
(iii) Tecoma (<i>Tabebuia pallida</i>)	1,430.26
(iv) Filao (<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>)	2,629.06
(v) Native species (<i>several</i>)	19,926.58
(vi) Others	55,436.58
TOTAL HARDWOODS =	156,259.41
<i>(b) Softwoods :</i>	<i>Cubic feet</i>
	<i>Log Volume</i>
(i) <i>Pinus taeda, caribea (coniferous) & sinensis spp.</i> ...	126,405.14
(ii) <i>Juniperus Bedfordiana</i>	19,066.50
(iii) <i>Cryptomeria Japonica</i>	40,723.52
(iv) <i>Araucaria</i>	1,273.34
TOTAL SOFTWOODS =	187,468.50
GRAND TOTAL HARDWOODS AND SOFTWOODS =	343,727.91

(c) Firewood and charcoal. During 1958, 23,349 'cordes' of firewood, each of 50 stacked cubic feet (equivalent to 1,167,475 cubic feet solid), together with 195,750 kgs of charcoal, were produced in the Crown Forest Estate.

From privately-owned forests and leased Crown Lands

(i) *Timber.* An estimated volume of some 200,000 cubic feet of round timber, principally 'filao' and eucalyptus was produced (accurate figures are not available).

(ii) *Firewood and charcoal.* An estimated 5,838 'cordes' of firewood (291,000 cubic feet solid) and 800,000 kgs of charcoal were produced.

The Forest Department

The permanent establishment of the Department consists of 150 posts.

For the day-to-day conduct of forestry operations the Department employed during 1958 a labour force of approximately 943 labourers. These were employed at Forest Department Nurseries and at Government Timber Stores, and on silvicultural, exploitation and surveying operations, the cutting of timber and fuel and in the manufacture of charcoal.

Organization of the Department. The smallest administrative unit in the management of the Crown Forest Estate is the Forest Section, which is normally under the control of a Forester assisted by one or more Forest Guards. A number of Forest Sections constitute a Forest Range, administered by a Forest Range Officer with the assistance of one or more Deputy Forest Rangers. Two or more Forest Ranges constitute a Division, which is administered by a Divisional Forest Assistant under the general control of the Conservator of Forests. Two Assistant Conservators of Forests are employed on technical forestry operations, and the Deputy Conservator of Forests assists the Conservator of Forests in his administrative duties.

Labour Supply. In the purely silvicultural operations undertaken by the Department, the labour force employed is almost wholly Indo-Mauritian, but amongst the ranks of sawyers and woodcutters employed on piece-work rates a high proportion of 'Creoles' continues to be employed. The percentage of 'Creoles' is increasing, however, in the ranks of nursery labourers and workers employed on silvicultural and allied operations.

Cyclones. No major cyclones traversed the Island during 1958.

Imports of timber. During 1958 a total of 517,533 cubic feet of converted timber (including 9,995 cubic feet of shingles) of a gross value of Rs 4,117,910 was imported into the Colony, mainly from Malaya, Siam and Australia. Imported timber is used mainly in building construction; there is a marked local prejudice in its favour owing to its superior finish.

Food Production. Damage by deer, pigs and monkeys in the upland forest zones restricts the application of the 'taungya' system to forest plantations within the lower and warmer elevations and the coastal belt.

Protection. The 4,520 acres of National Reserves continued to receive full attention. The experimental plots laid out in them to establish the best means of controlling exotics and at the same time foster the regeneration of native species are showing gratifying results.

The experimental timber plantations created on the lower slopes of Signal Mountain were satisfactorily protected against fire. These plantations are surrounded by grass lands which are annually fired; no fires crossed into the rigidly protected areas.

No serious damage to Eucalyptus crops by the Curculionid beetle (*Gonipterus Scutellatus*) was reported.

Tea Cultivation. The cultivation of tea in Crown lands "Wooton" and "Midlands" was extended. The Forest Department assisted the Tea Officer in the initial clearance of the areas.

Silviculture. A total area of 474.96 acres was newly planted during the year, principally with: *Eucalyptus robusta*, *umbellata*, *citriodora* and *Hybrid*; *Pinus taeda* and *elliottii*; *D. Latifolia*; *Swietenia Mahogany*; *Cinnamomum Camphora*; *Araucaria Cookii*; *Agathis Robusta*. In addition some 4,221.42 acres of plantations of from 5-20 years of age were treated culturally under weeding, cleaning, thinning and pruning operations.

Output of Forest Produce

The statement below gives the estimated volume in the round (log volume) of timber and forest produce, local or imported into Mauritius during 1958, and of other minor forest produce.

(i) Major Forest Produce (Timber) :

(A) Local Production			Cubic ft. (solid)
(a) Production from Crown Forests	...	...	343,728
(b) Production from unleased Pas Géométriques	..	..	1,000
(c) Production from privately owned Forests and leased Pas Géométriques	200,000
TOTAL			544,728
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(d) Imports from 1st January to 31st December 1958 (sawn timber 517,533 cubic feet)	1,035,066
GRAND TOTAL			1,579,794

(ii) Minor Forest Produce :

			Cubic ft. (solid)
(a) Firewood from Crown Forest Lands (stacked) cordes of 50 cubic feet	...	...	1,167,475
(b) Firewood from privately owned Forest Lands or leased Crown Lands estimated 5,838 stacked cordes of 50 cubic feet	...	...	291,900
TOTAL			1,459,375
<hr/>			
			Kgms.
(c) Charcoal from Crown Forest Lands	...	...	195,950
(d) Charcoal from privately owned forested lands or leased Crown Lands	...	...	800,000
TOTAL			995,950

Revenue and Expenditure. During the year 1958 the Department was responsible for expenditure of Rs 2,554,544.96. The revenue derived by the Department from the sale of forest produce and shooting and fishing leases amounted to Rs 1,008,410.46.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

Apart from the sugar, tea, tobacco and fibre industries discussed above, local industries of lesser importance comprise the manufacture of rum and wine, edible oil and soap, cigarettes, aerated beverages, dairy produce, salt, lime and bricks.

Various small trades, including printing, tanneries, mechanical and electrical workshops, flourish in the Colony.

The Customs Tariff Ordinance provides for exemptions from import duty in respect of machinery and apparatus intended solely for use in factories for the manufacture or preparation of most of the commodities which are produced in the Colony, and the Income Tax Ordinance provides for an "investment allowance" equal to one-tenth of the capital expenditure incurred on construction of buildings or provision of new plant for industrial purposes.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The co-operative movement in Mauritius and Rodrigues comprises the Department of Co-operation, four secondary societies (the Mauritius Co-operative Union Ltd., the Mauritius Co-operative Agricultural Federation Ltd., the Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., and the Mauritius Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd.), and 341 primary societies (168 credit societies of unlimited liability, three credit societies of limited liability, 28 thrift and savings societies, 31 school savings banks, 79 co-operative retail stores, seven marketing societies, three housing societies, one printing society, twenty transport societies and one better-living society). During the year twenty societies were registered and the registration of twelve societies was cancelled.

The Department of Co-operation is responsible for registration, audit, supervision, education in co-operative activities, arbitration and, when necessary, cancellation of registration. The main effort of the Department continued to be directed towards consolidation rather than expansion and to raising standards of management and book-keeping, especially in the co-operative stores societies. Besides the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, the Deputy and one Assistant Registrar, the staff included 10 field officers,

The Mauritius Co-operative Union Ltd. at the end of the year had a membership of 206 societies. Its objects are, amongst others, to promote co-operation, to bring together co-operative institutions for a common endeavour, to assist with supervision and audit, to promote education in co-operative activities and to represent the movement. During the year the Union sold stationery to societies, arranged film shows and advised stores societies. Its field staff, consisting of a secretary-supervisor and twelve supervisors, were under the control of the Department of Co-operation and proved of great assistance. In 1958 the Union's revenue amounted to Rs 74,800, derived from audit fees and contributions of societies and a Government grant-in-aid of Rs 30,000 payable for five years from 1954. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies is *ex officio* the President of the Union and of its central and executive committees. The Deputy Registrar and two Co-operative Officers are *ex officio* members of the Union.

The Mauritius Agricultural Federation Ltd., with a membership of 143 societies, acts on behalf of its societies in agricultural matters and for this purpose retains the part-time services of a barrister and of a firm of Chartered Accountants. During the year the Federation assisted in the formation of cane-planter transport societies and of tea-marketing societies. The Federation is represented on a number of Government boards and committees. Its staff consists of a secretary and an assistant secretary.

The Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank Ltd. at the end of the year had a membership of 166 societies, a share capital of Rs 455,545, reserves of Rs 590,913 and deposits of Rs 2,431,854. Loans issued in 1958, at 6½% interest p.a., totalled Rs 4,355,225: loans overdue at the end of the year amounted to Rs 32,629. Loans to member societies, consisting mainly of cane-growers, are secured by a lien on the societies' sugar, all of which is sold through the Bank's secretary-manager, who is also the Bank's broker.

The Mauritius Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd., with 79 member societies, had a turnover for the year ended 31st December, 1958, of Rs 3,899,435. The society's share capital was Rs 122,924 and reserves amounted to Rs 74,487. Both the society and its member retail stores benefited from the increased volume of direct imports from overseas.

Credit Societies of Unlimited Liability

At the end of the year there were 148 credit societies of unlimited liability in Mauritius and 20 in Rodrigues, with a total of 9,799 members. The majority of the members of the Mauritius

societies are cane-growers, while those of the Rodrigues societies are mainly engaged in subsistence farming. In 1958 loans of Mauritius societies to members totalled Rs 5,062,180 and were secured by sureties and a lien on the crop. Payments to members for cane marketed through the agency of their societies amounted to Rs 11½ million. The deposits of members amounted to Rs 263,648 as compared with Rs 174,795 for the year 1957. Share capital and reserve funds of the societies were Rs 527,406 and Rs 1,219,670 respectively.

Credit Societies of Limited Liability

The three credit societies of limited liability, whose 70 members are fishermen, issued loans totalling Rs 620 during the year. The co-operative marketing of fish caught in the large 'seine' acquired by one of the societies had some success.

Thrift and Savings Societies

There were 28 thrift and savings societies at the end of 1958, with a membership of 2,278 and savings of Rs 560,449. The two societies of salary earners, with deductions for savings at source, were successful. In the remaining societies, which are in the rural areas, deduction at source was not possible and except in a few cases savings were poor.

School Savings Banks

One school savings bank was registered in 1958 and three were dissolved bringing the total to 31 with a total membership of 5,686. By the end of the year savings amounted to Rs 69,892 as compared with Rs 61,785 in 1957. The banks are popular with parents and children and receive good support from teachers. The Co-operative Union supplies books free of charge from its Education Fund and, as a special concession to help the banks build up funds for communal activities, the Co-operative Central Bank pays interest at 3½% on their deposits.

Co-operative Retail Stores

At the end of 1958 there were 79 co-operative retail stores with a membership of 13,440 and a turnover of Rs. 6,501,173. The majority of societies operated successfully, but a few suffered losses through defalcations, bad management and excessive credit sales. In addition to the usual bad debts reserve, all societies are building up, by allocation of surplus, what is termed a mutual aid fund. Once the fund reaches the required level the by-laws are amended to allow credit sales up to the amount of the fund on the basis of a maximum credit limit for each member. In this way the fund serves as a buffer against losses on credit sales and makes up for capital tied up in debts.

Marketing Societies

The Crève Coeur Co-operative Ginger Marketing Society Ltd. continued to experience difficulty in disposing of members' green ginger to local dealers. None was sold through the agency of the society.

The six tea marketing societies registered in 1956 entered into contracts with tea factories for the sale of their members' tea leaves.

Housing Societies

There are three housing societies with a total membership of 247 share capital of Rs 7,050 and deposits of Rs 19,557. At present the societies are financed by a Government loan. The societies have lent Rs 221,457 to members for the building of houses.

Printing Society

The co-operative printing society with 846 members, a share capital of Rs 28,304 and a printing press in Port Louis, carried out Rs 47,702 worth of printing business during the year and made the most of its old equipment.

Transport Societies

The number of co-operative transport societies increased from 14 to 20 and membership from 609 to 968. Paid-up shares on the 31st December, 1958, amounted to Rs 206,546. About 48,000 tons of sugar cane were transported from fields to factories during the 1958 crop. Expenditure of a capital nature by these societies is reimbursed from the Sugar Planters Rehabilitation Fund.

Better Living Society

One co-operative better-living society with 59 members is operating in Long Mountain. It has a kindergarten school for about 50 four-year old children. The kindergarten school is assisted by a small grant from the Village Council.

Educational Activities

Two courses of a week each were held for officials of co-operative credit societies. The junior staff continued voluntarily to take correspondence courses in book-keeping and other subjects of the Co-operative College, Loughborough, and one of them successfully sat for the book-keeping examinations. The Co-operative Union showed films on co-operative subjects throughout Mauritius and held classes for salesmen of stores societies. Messrs. Kemp Chatteris & Co., Chartered Accountants, gave lectures on accountancy and auditing methods to the staff of the Department and the Union.

Audit

The accounts of all societies were audited. Except in the case of three secondary societies and the printing society, which employed professional or approved auditors, the audits were carried out by the staff of the Department of Co-operation and of the Mauritius Co-operative Union Ltd. In addition to the annual statutory audit, interim audits were carried out during the year.

Arbitrations

A large number of arbitration awards were made against members of stores societies who failed to pay for goods purchased on credit. Some awards were also made against members of credit societies who failed to repay their loans. Where necessary the awards were referred for execution to the attorney of the Mauritius Co-operative Union Ltd. The co-operative movement was fortunate in obtaining the honorary services as arbitrators of a retired civil servant, and three retired teachers, all active members of the movement.

T A B L E

The following table gives an indication of progress made over three years:—

		1956	1957	1958
Total Societies ...		332	337	345
Total Members ...		31,252	33,065	34,557
Total Turnover ...	Rs	33,843,164*	38,521,400*	38,094,401*
Share Capital ...	Rs	1,324,656	1,463,200	1,636,184
Reserve Funds ...	Rs	1,694,908	2,077,593	2,347,382
Other Funds ...	Rs	215,184	329,738	478,911
Government loans to Societies ...	Rs	137,120	246,030	280,708
Total Assets ...	Rs	9,534,639*	10,767,446*	12,274,049*

*For the year ended 28th February, 1958.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

Organization

The Education Department is the biggest of the departments which form the administrative machinery of the Government of Mauritius. It has seven divisions and a staff of almost 3,500. The headquarters staff consists of a Director, a Deputy Director, three Assistant Directors, a number of Administrative Education Officers and Organizers, and a clerical and store-keeping staff of 49. The Department's headquarters are at Rose Hill where the staff of the Visual Education Branch, the School Health Service and the Primary Schools Inspectorate are also housed. The other senior members of the staff at Assistant Director level are the Chief Superintendent of Primary Schools, the Principals and Headmistress of the three Government Secondary Schools, the Principal of the Teachers' Training College, and the Principal of the Technical Institute and Trade Centre.

An advisory Board advises the Minister of Education on all questions concerning education in the Colony.

Educational Facilities

On the 31st October, 1958, there were 184 Government and aided primary schools providing free education to 100,151 pupils. The 76 aided schools are managed by four Education Authorities: Roman Catholic (53 schools), Church of England (17 schools), Hindu (4 schools) and Muslim (2 schools). There were in addition 272 other primary and secondary schools registered with the Department with a roll of 15,078 primary schoolchildren. This number, which includes 3,748 children in the primary sections of the secondary schools, brought the total number of children receiving primary education in 1958 to 115,629 as compared with 102,291 in the previous year. Of that total 64,155 were boys and 51,474 girls.

Teachers in aided schools are paid by the Department and are appointed, transferred or promoted by the Director on the recommendation of the Authority concerned. The promotion of teachers in the Government primary schools is, like that of other civil servants, subject to the Governor's approval, which is usually given on the advice of the Public Service Commission.

In primary education the English pattern is followed, generally speaking, subject to adjustments to suit local conditions. The course lasts six years; pupils enter at the age of 5 but are allowed to stay up to the age of 12 to compete for the junior scholarships which entitle the winners to free tuition in secondary schools.

A total of 128 Government scholarships are obtainable on a competitive basis, 75 for boys and 53 for girls. These scholarships, which provide free secondary education, free travelling and a grant of Rs 300 a year, are tenable at either Government or aided secondary schools.

Secondary education is almost exclusively of the grammar school type, leading to university courses. Government schools can meet only part of the demand and since 1951 the Department has been subsidizing a number of private schools which can offer satisfactory guarantees of proper schooling up to School Certificate or Higher School Certificate level. There were on the 31st October 1,262 pupils in the three Government secondary schools, 2,424 in the subsidized schools known in Mauritius as " approved secondary schools ", and 11,751 in the unaided secondary schools. This total of 15,437 secondary pupils was made up of 10,381 boys and 5,056 girls. The 65 secondary schools comprise 3 Government, 8 approved and 54 other schools.

Apart from the College of Agriculture, there are no institutions in the Colony which provide full-time post-secondary education, and students wishing to follow university and other post-secondary courses have to go overseas. In 1958 there were 434 students following courses in institutions of higher education in the United Kingdom, Eire and on the Continent of Europe.

There is a Teachers' Training College at Beau Bassin, through which all those seeking permanent service in the Government and aided primary schools must pass. The normal course is of two years' duration, but this has to be supplemented from time to time by shorter courses to meet the demand for new teachers. During the year 450 students were in training at the College or in the primary schools, including 350 long course (218 men and 132 women), 86 short course (76 men and 10 women), and 12 teachers and two Health Department officers following a year's in-service training in handicrafts.

The greatest problem which confronts the Department is the increasing number of children of school-going age and the consequential rising demand for school places. Policy has necessarily been influenced both by this pressing demand for more school places and by the need for instruction of a practical nature. There is an urgent need for more schools and more teachers and steps are being taken to meet the situation within the limits of the country's resources.

Six new Government primary schools were opened in 1958. A seventh was completed, but not opened by the end of the year, and eight others were under construction. The Roman Catholic and Church of England Education Authorities pursued their school rebuilding schemes which receive Government aid on the basis of a two-thirds grant of the capital expenditure incurred by the Authority or of the additional rent payable by the Authority to landlords. Fully equipped handicraft centres have now been provided in 49 Government and aided primary schools, serving a total of 87 schools, at the Central School, at the two Government secondary schools for boys and at the Training College (which has two centres).

The new building for the Royal College (Port Louis) at Cassis on the outskirts of Port Louis was occupied in February but as a start could not be made on the second phase of the building the science laboratories at Edith Cavell Street have been retained.

School Health Service

The School Health Service falls under two headings: medical and dental. The staff comprises three School Medical Officers (one part-time), three nurses, three Health Workers, four dentists with one clinical and clerical assistant each, and one Nutrition and Health Assistant.

Entrants into all Government and aided primary schools and into Government secondary schools are medically examined. Free medical treatment is provided for primary school pupils. All new teaching staff and school servants are medically examined and X-rayed.

The school nurses and health workers carry out cleanliness and health surveys (including distance vision testing) in the primary schools. Free treatment is provided for head infestation.

The medical staff is helped by the Nutrition and Health Assistant, whose duties consist in giving talks on nutrition to senior pupils in primary schools and to mothers of school-children, in weighing and measuring pupils, and in rendering assistance in connexion with the School Milk Scheme. This year iron tablets were issued instead of yeast which is now given only on the recommendation of the School Medical Officer.

A Mobile School Clinic fully equipped for medical, cleansing and nutrition work visits all the primary schools.

The dental service treats primary school pupils only. Pupils of schools in the urban areas are treated at the hospitals while schools

in rural areas are visited by two Mobile Dental Clinics. Teeth-cleaning drills are held regularly at school. Toothbrushes at a subsidised price are available for sale to pupils at primary schools.

Handicrafts

Increasing emphasis is placed on the teaching of handicrafts in Government and aided primary schools and in the Government, central and secondary schools.

In 1958 seven new handicraft centres were opened, including one at Rodrigues, bringing the total to fifty-four. Bookcraft is taught to children of Standards IV to VI and woodwork and metal work to boys of Standard VI. A three-year course in needlework for girls is now in force in all schools, and at certain schools basketry is also taught. This year vacation courses for teachers were run in wood-turning, knitting and sewing.

School Broadcasts

The weekly programmes intended for the 76 Government and aided primary schools which were equipped with radio sets included the following regular items: weekly news, readings from the prescribed English language text books, and the B.B.C. 'Listen and Write' series. There are twice weekly broadcasts to the secondary schools, mainly of B.B.C. material.

A Schools Broadcasting Officer assumed duty in February, 1957. This year he initiated a system of weekly reports from schools taking the broadcast services.

Visual and Aural Education

The activities of the Visual Aids section include the drawing up of weekly filmshow programmes for the Government and aided primary schools, giving previews of the films to the teachers on Saturdays, going round the Government and aided primary schools to show the films, and distributing visual aids, materials (filmstrips, picture sets, photographs) to those schools. This year the Unit gave 396 shows in primary schools, attended by 32,437 pupils, and 201 shows for the benefit of post-primary students. The Music Organizer had a particularly active and successful year, enhanced by the visit of Dr. Wiseman, of the Royal Academy of Music, delegated to hold examinations in singing and instrumental music. Of 27 choirs entered 3 gained distinctions and 6 merits. In the primary schools 6 music teachers now visit 56 schools; most of the Government and aided secondary schools have choirs, and a Primary School Teachers' Orchestra has been formed.

Further Education

Post-primary continuation classes were organized at 21 centres with a total enrolment of 655 pupils.

Post-secondary continuation classes provide instruction on a fee-paying basis in commercial subjects (with a view to those enrolled taking the London Chamber of Commerce examinations) and also in art, bookbinding, woodwork and weaving. Attendance at these classes was much more regular than at the post-primary classes.

Science extension classes provide laboratory facilities for students reading for the G.C.E., Intermediate and Final B.Sc., examinations, and for local examinations in Pharmacy. The subjects studied are Physics, Chemistry and Biology. In 1958 about 150 students followed a practical course in one or other of these subjects.

Youth Organisations

Special emphasis continues to be placed on the expansion of the youth movement in the rural areas. There are now six Federations made up of the clubs and organisations in each region. Four Youth Officers from the Education Department have been seconded to work in the rural areas to help these Federations to develop and to broaden the scope of club activities.

The total number of clubs and organisations has shown a marked increase and there are now 550 affiliated to Youth House with a membership in excess of 20,000.

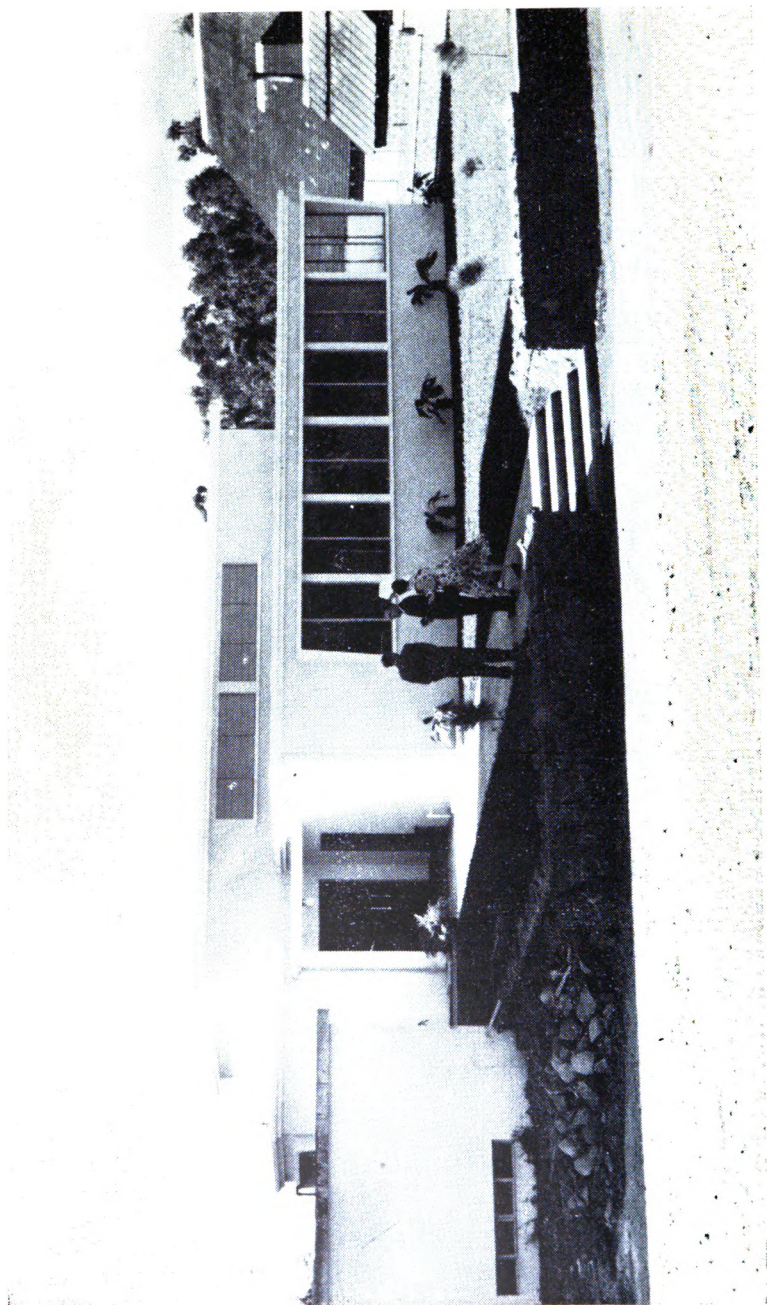
Mauritius continued its affiliation to W.A.Y. (World Assembly of Youth) and was represented in 1958 on the Executive Committee of W.A.Y. by the President of the Port Louis Youth Federation. Three representatives from Mauritius travelled to Delhi to attend the Conference organized by W.A.Y. and the W.A.Y. Regional representative of South East Africa visited Mauritius.

Expenditure

Expenditure on education during the financial year 1957-58 amounted to Rs 22,218,055 of which Rs 18,621,785 was recurrent and Rs 3,596,270 was capital expenditure. Recurrent expenditure represents 14% of total Government expenditure of a recurrent nature.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The medical services are administered by a Director of Medical Services, assisted by two deputies. They are organised into nine divisions and form one of the largest Government departments. The



GENERAL VIEW OF THE CENTRAL SCHOOL OF NURSING

health services have appreciably expanded in recent years and provision is made in the Capital Expenditure Programme 1957-62 for a further degree of expansion and development.

The functions of the Medical and Health Department are :

- (a) to investigate the influence of social, environmental and domestic factors on the incidence of human disease and disability;
- (b) to plan and carry out measures for the promotion of health;
- (c) to institute and maintain measures for the prevention of disease;
- (d) to provide a quarantine service to prevent the introduction of infectious diseases by sea or air;
- (e) to provide facilities for treatment of disease, including mental disease, by maintenance of hospital and dispensary services;
- (f) to make provision for the rehabilitation of the disabled;
- (g) to control the practice of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy;
- (h) to provide facilities for the training of nurses, midwives, sanitary officers;
- (i) to advise local authorities regarding their health services and to inspect those services;
- (j) to prepare and publish reports and statistical or other information relating to health.

General Health

The improvement in health conditions during the past few years, as demonstrated by the following statistical figures, is one of the most notable features in the recent history of the Colony.

The figures were affected in 1957 by an outbreak of Asiatic influenza :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Birth rate per ‰</i>	<i>Death rate per ‰</i>	<i>Infant Mortality rate per ‰</i>	<i>Maternal Mortality rate per ‰</i>
1938 ...	33·4	29·9	162·5	11·38
1943 ...	33·1	25·9	141·5	5·14
1950 ...	49·7	13·9	76·3	3·51
1955 ...	41·8	12·9	67·2	1·47
1956 ...	43·8	11·8	66·0	2·13
1957 ...	43·1	13·0	75·1	2·84
1958 ...	40·8	11·8	67·4	3·73

The main factors responsible for bringing about such striking improvements have been the progressive elimination of malaria as a result of an island-wide campaign, the higher standard of environ-

mental hygiene, the absence of severe cyclones and drought during the past twelve years and the relative economic prosperity of the Island.

Malaria

Malaria, which up to 1945 occupied the first place amongst causes of mortality, has now ceased to be a public health problem and the figures shown below indicate the remarkable fall in the death rate due to malaria:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Deaths ascribed to malaria</i>	<i>Rate per 0/00 population</i>	<i>Percentage of deaths due to malaria to total deaths</i>
1945 ...	3,534	8·34	23·13
1948 ...	1,580	3·58	15·02
1951 ...	285	0·59	3·95
1952 ...	188	0·37	2·52
1953 ...	61	0·12	0·73
1954 ...	27	0·05	0·32
1955 ...	3	0·00	0·04
1956 ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
1957 ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
1958 ...	1	0·00	0·01

Infective and Parasitic Diseases

There has equally been a decline in the number of deaths caused by the group of infective and parasitic diseases as shown by the following figures:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Deaths (ascribed to infective and parasitic diseases)</i>
1948 ...	4,052
1949 ...	1,603
1951 ...	863
1954 ...	665
1955 ...	311
1956 ...	354
1957 ...	416
1958 ...	315

Mortality Rates

Mortality from the principal groups of diseases is hereunder summarised:

<i>Group</i>	<i>Number of deaths</i>	
	<i>1957</i>	<i>1958</i>
(a) Infective and parasitic diseases	416	315
(b) Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs ...	377	388
(c) Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	431	421
(d) Diseases of the circulation system	622	644
(e) Diseases of the respiratory system	1,132	846
(f) Diseases of the digestive system	1,007	1,077
(g) Certain diseases of early infancy	881	817

Institutional Facilities

The institutional facilities which were available in 1958 are tabulated hereunder:—

(a) <i>Government Institutions</i>						No.	Beds
1. General Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	8	1,202
2. Dispensaries (including 2 in the prisons)	...	...	...	...	...	48	—
3. Specialized Units :—							
(a) Maternity and Child Welfare Centres	...	...	...	...	...	9	—
(b) Maternity wards in hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	8	110
(c) Leprosarium	...	...	...	...	...	1	62
(d) Mental Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	1	707
(e) Orthopaedic Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	1	157
(f) Prisons Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	2	46
4. Mobile Units :—							
(a) Dispensaries	...	...	...	...	...	4 units	
(b) Ante-natal Clinic	...	...	...	...	...	1 unit	
(c) Dental clinic	...	...	...	...	...	2 units	
(b) <i>Private Institutions</i>							
1. Sugar estate hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	33	738
2. Sugar estate dispensaries	...	...	...	...	...	8	—
3. Nursing homes	...	...	...	...	...	5	53

There are 37 dispensaries in the rural areas. In addition a Mobile Dispensary service comprising four units caters for the needs of scattered villages and hamlets where it would be uneconomic to provide a static out-patient service.

There are 23 maternity and infant welfare centres, and regular clinics are held at each of these. This service is supplemented by a mobile unit which visits a large number of localities in the rural districts.

Medical and Health Staff

	Government	Private
1. Registered Medical Practitioners	60	61
2. Dentists	4	25
3. Pharmacists	2	45
4. Nurses of senior training	10	—
Nurses in hospitals	176	—
Dressers in hospitals	217	—
5. Midwives (all categories)	64	—
6. Sanitary Inspectors	59	—
7. X-Ray Specialists	2	—
X-Ray Technicians	5	—

Expenditure on Health Services

Government expenditure on medical and health services in the financial year 1957–58 was Rs 13,296,099, or 10.03 per cent of the Colony's total expenditure for the year. This represented Rs 22.28 per head of the estimated population at the 31st December, 1957.

BUILDING AND PLANNING

Architecture

Constructional activity continued through the year at a lively rate and many new buildings were in course of erection.

Religious buildings came to the fore with a number of places of worship of original design, while commercial buildings continued to be erected, especially in Port Louis.

Town Planning

Although the Town and Country Planning Ordinance (No. 6 of 1954) is in force, no general planning system has been enforced for lack of technical staff but leases of Crown land conform to accepted planning principles.

Housing

The rate of building of Local Authority housing slowed down but with the aid of further loans two more schemes were in course of preparation at the end of the year. Sugar estates continued to build permanent houses at a fair rate. Both in towns and villages the building of small houses was much in evidence, especially after the crop season.

Building Construction

Reinforced concrete frame and concrete block construction is now the invariable form of building for larger works, and is indeed the rule everywhere, except for very small houses. The science and skill of making good concrete assumes therefore no little importance, and it is here that local methods leave room for improvement. Although the reinforced concrete slab is our most common form of roofing, roofs are often of timber covered with a number of different imported materials, of which coloured asbestos tiles seem to be increasing in popularity.

It is often difficult to purchase good seasoned constructional timber. There is little mature local timber on the market; imported unseasoned timber is all that is usually available.

Building Works

In the latter part of the year, the building industry had a very heavy programme of construction for the Government in addition to its normal commitments in the private sector.

The Sugar Syndicate Building in the centre of Port Louis was nearing completion and will be a handsome addition to the Town scene. The stage by stage rebuilding of a bank headquarters has resulted in a simple building of classical proportions.

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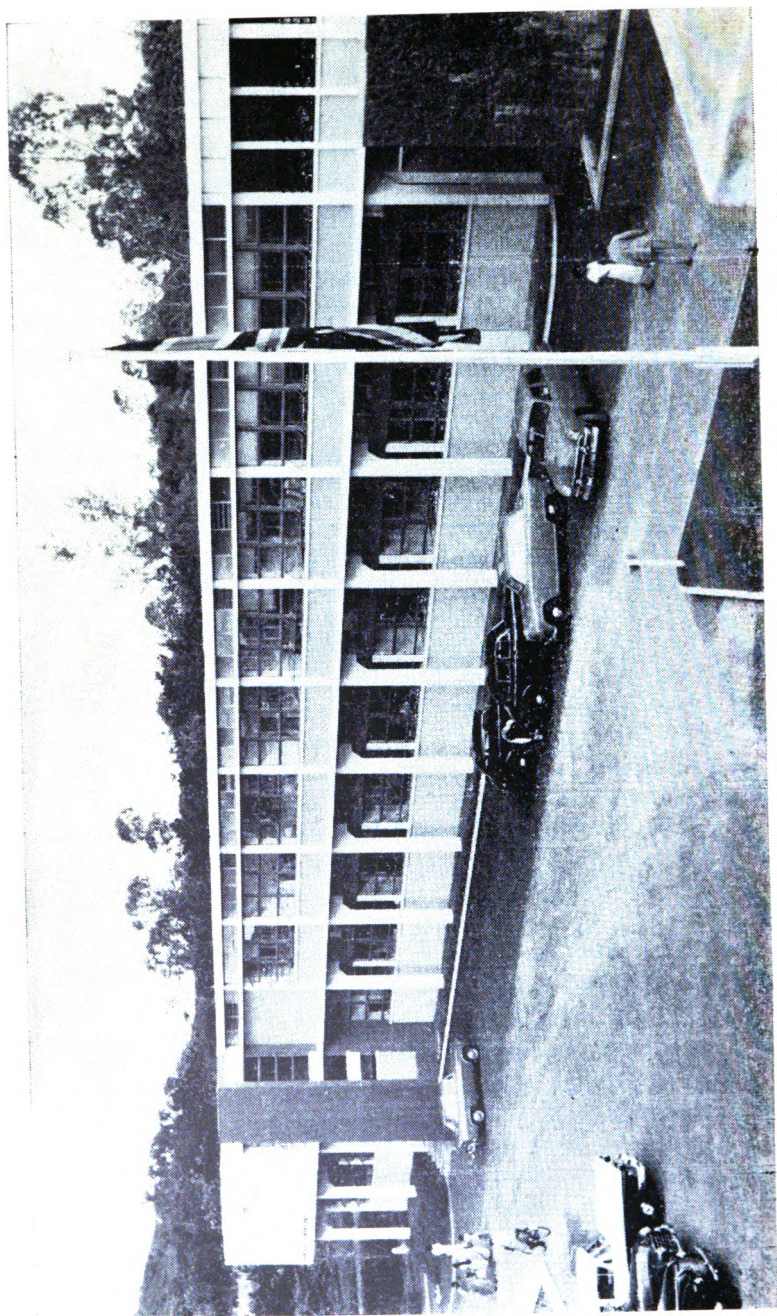
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GENERAL VIEW OF THE CENTRAL LABORATORY AT CANDOS

The new mosque in Port Louis is a building of cubical proportions, and diagonal grilles. The church and tower at Stanley in ferro-concrete is in appearance lofty, cool and chaste.

Between the casuarina trees, beside the green waters and white sands of Grand'Baie, a church built with unhewn volcanic stone faces and sharply angular roofs has assumed its place in harmony with its surroundings.

Government Buildings

During the year the Hospital at Rodrigues was completed and the new Bacteriological Laboratory at Candos taken into use.

Twenty-three new schools and school extensions were taken into use. Work was continued on Police Stations and quarters and a start made on the new headquarters for the Forests Department.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Outdoor Relief

The basic organisation for the registration, investigation and adjudication of applications for outdoor relief remained the same in 1958 as in 1957.

New applications received in 1958 amounted to 18,721, of which 13,246 were approved, while 8,076 allowances were withdrawn from the register during the year. The total number of cases on roll at 31st December, 1958, was 19,468 as compared with 15,231 at the end of the preceding year.

The basic scale rates introduced in 1953 have been altered, providing for an increase of Rs 1.50 per adult and Re 1 per child. Moreover, generous discretionary additions are made in cases of prolonged illness where a special diet is recommended.

The total amount disbursed on outdoor relief in 1958 was Rs 6,984,786, the average monthly payment being Rs 23.14 as against Rs 20.76 for 1957.

Relief in kind

The number and cost of blankets and flannel under-garments distributed to needy recipients of outdoor relief during the winter season in 1958, as compared with 1957, are as under:

Year	Blankets		Flannels		Total cost
		Units		Units	Rs
1957	...	4,462		2,589	50,500
1958	...	5,020		670	50,844

In addition to these comforts, 403 pairs of spectacles to the value of Rs 5,452 were also issued to recipients of outdoor relief and to Old Age pensioners in 1958 on the recommendation of the eye specialist.

Workrooms

Work in lieu of relief continued to be provided in the workrooms throughout the year to 46 persons, mostly widows with large families. Their total earnings for the year on a piece-rate basis amounted to Rs 49,174.34 as follows:

			<i>Rs</i>
Lingerie (out-workers)	...	...	10,186.04
Sergerie and Uniforms (in-workers)	...	...	38,988.30
			<hr/>
TOTAL	...	...	49,174.34

The average monthly earning was therefore Rs 89.09 per relief worker.

Indoor Relief

There was no addition in 1958 to the number of institutions providing indoor treatment.

The number of inmates in the infirmaries and orphanages at the end of 1958, including harmless mental patients transferred from the Mental Hospital, was as under:

		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Infirm	...	385	287	672
Orphans	...	58	128	186

as compared with 654 infirm and 182 orphans at the end of the preceding year.

The capitation grant amounts to Rs 1.10 per day for both adults and children. The additional Christmas and New Year grant of Rs 2 per inmate was paid as usual in 1958.

A programme of outings to the seaside was arranged for the inmates of all infirmaries and orphanages in 1958 and these outings were much appreciated. The Youth Organisation also invited some 65 orphans from Public Assistance institutions to join the Schools Holiday Camp at Cannoniers Point for a week, thereby affording them an opportunity to mix with other children and participate in outdoor games and other activities during that period.

Frequent visits were paid in 1958 to the various institutions by members of voluntary organisations who distributed sweets and cigarettes to inmates and provided them with musical and other entertainment.

Old Age Pensions

The Old Age Pension Ordinance was amended by Ordinance No. 3 of 1958 with retrospective effect from 1st July, 1957, increasing the Old Age Pension from Rs 20 to Rs 22 and abolishing the means test to which applicants were originally subjected. As a result of this the number of applications received rose to 8,361 of

which 8,221 were granted. The cases turned down were those in respect of persons not fulfilling the required statutory conditions in regard to residence. The total disbursements on these pensions in 1958 amounted to Rs 7,810,895 against Rs 4,716,430 for 1957.

Repatriation

Expenditure of Rs 7,162.56 was incurred in 1958 on the repatriation of 18 destitute Mauritians from abroad and aliens from the Colony.

The number of repatriates on record at the end of 1958 was 40 and repayments amounting to Rs 4,670.83 were effected by liable parties during the year.

Relief to destitute Mauritians abroad

During the year there were nine persons in receipt of "hard core" relief. The actual expenditure on this account from all sources is not yet known, but the total commitment is approximately Rs 8,640 per annum. As from February, 1958, an increase of 25% has been granted in the rate of relief to destitute Mauritians living in France.

S O C I A L W E L F A R E

Departmental Organisation

The Social Welfare Department was created in July, 1953. Previously social welfare was the responsibility of the Public Assistance Department, while the Probation Service was the responsibility of the Judicial Department. The Department works in close co-operation with other Government departments and voluntary bodies engaged in social welfare activities.

In June, 1958, a Social Development Board was set up to replace the Social Welfare Advisory Committee and to advise the Minister of Health and Social Services on all social development matters which he may refer to the Board and to co-ordinate and secure the co-operation of all voluntary organisations in this field.

Social Welfare Centres

A thirteenth Centre is under construction at La Rosa, New Grove. These centres play an important part in the development of community activities and in the general social education of the people in the rural areas. A maternity and child welfare service including pre-natal and post-natal care to mothers and the provision of milk to babies constitutes one major activity at the centres. Doctors paid by the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee have been performing all medical work at the centres. The Director of Medical Services posted two midwives to each of two other centres. The midwifery service at five centres is run by the Social Welfare

Department, with funds provided largely by the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund, under the technical supervision of the Medical Department.

Social welfare centres are the focal point for afternoon and evening activities in every village where these exist. Indoor games, sports and listening to the radio are the main activities. In some centres there are formal literary classes, with debates and lectures from time to time. Film shows by mobile units are a regular feature at each centre.

Agricultural demonstration plots have been set up at some social welfare centres. The aim is to teach the local farmers how production can be increased by the adoption of modern methods of cultivation. Vegetable growers are also encouraged to organise themselves into Farmers' Clubs.

The needlework and dressmaking classes held in each centre for the benefit of local girls are very popular.

Canteens have been set up in some centres with a view to combating the evils of alcoholism. Non-alcoholic liquors are sold at a reasonable price, for consumption on the premises, to members of the public calling at the centres.

To assist co-ordination, conferences of chairmen of local committees are held from time to time under the chairmanship of the Social Welfare Commissioner.

Welfare Months

To stimulate community activities the holding of welfare months at social welfare centres has been found to be a successful technique. During the month chosen, besides a health exhibition at the centre, officers of departments such as Agriculture, Health, Education, and Social Welfare give lectures and demonstrations to the people, drawing their attention to the problems of the village and suggesting solutions. The contribution of the local women's associations, boys' clubs, co-operative societies and other welfare organisations is generally very substantial during the welfare month.

Women's Welfare

The development of women's associations is being encouraged, especially in the rural areas. The aim of these associations is to bring the women together to learn things which will be of help in their homes, to improve conditions in the village, to consider the needs of the villagers and to develop a spirit of friendliness, co-operation and initiative. There were 86 such associations registered with the Social Welfare Department at the end of 1958.

Most of the associations run a sewing class for the benefit of the girls of the village and there is also a fortnightly or monthly

sewing class held by a dressmaker employed by the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund. In some places a handicraft class is held.

The Mauritius Women's Institute, which was set up in 1955, has continued its good work. This organisation consists of ladies from all the communities of the Island. Its members pay regular visits to social welfare centres and give talks and demonstrations and sometimes hold sewing classes. In some localities painting classes are held.

The exhibitions held in October and December and organised by the women's associations with the help of the Women's Institute and the Social Welfare Department were a success.

Voluntary Workers' Conference

The Social Welfare Department organises from time to time conferences of voluntary workers to discuss ways and means of developing the rural areas and raising the standard of living.

Treatment of Offenders

The probation system introduced in the Island in 1946 has made satisfactory progress. Probation applies to both juveniles and adults and it is worthy of note that more adults than juveniles pass through the hands of Probation Officers. A certain amount of social work connected with the courts (e.g. settling matrimonial disputes, handling of difficult children, etc.) is also undertaken by Probation Officers, many of whom have been trained in the United Kingdom.

The Probation Service pays particular attention to the prevention of delinquency. Probation Officers urge youths in villages to occupy their leisure time by making use of the facilities available in social welfare centres.

Probationers are required to report to Probation Officers in social welfare centres, where these exist, instead of going to the Court. In a welfare centre the Probation Officer can spend more time with the individual delinquent child and is in a better position to plan rehabilitation measures.

The first probation hostel for boys was opened in May, 1954. It is non-denominational and it is managed by a representative Committee. It can accommodate fifteen boys, and the number of probationers was up to thirteen in 1958. These boys are regularly employed outside the hostel and half of their earnings go towards their keep. Voluntary workers help the management with regard to the education and health of the inmates.

In the field of after-care, Probation Officers help with the rehabilitation of juveniles released from the Industrial School and from Borstal.

Chapter 8 : Legislation

Forty Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council and assented to by the Governor during the year 1958. The most important of these Ordinances, which deal principally with matters of domestic concern, are:

The Banking Ordinance

(No. 1 of 1958)

This Ordinance regulates the business of banking in the Colony and safeguards the interests of the public in general and the depositors in particular.

The Old Age Pensions (Amendment) Ordinance

(No. 3 of 1958)

This Ordinance removes the statutory conditions imposed under the Old Age Pensions Ordinance, 1951, as to the means of an applicant and abolishes the means test. It further fixes the old age pension at Rs 22 monthly.

The Public Officers (Cancellation of Security) Ordinance

(No. 4 of 1958)

This Ordinance provides that certain public officers shall no longer be required to furnish security for the discharge of their duties.

The Post Office (Amendment) Ordinance

(No. 7 of 1958)

This Ordinance was enacted to discourage the evasion of postal dues by enhancing the penalty therefor and provides for the seizure of letters conveyed in breach of the Ordinance.

The Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Ordinance

(No. 9 of 1958)

This Ordinance amends the definition of "gandia" so as to ensure that any plant of *Cannabis Sativa L* or *Cannabis Indica* is included and not only the pistillate plant.

The Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance

(No. 11 of 1958)

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The Representation of the People Ordinance (No. 14 of 1958)

This Ordinance makes provision in a single enactment for the registration of electors and the conduct of elections for the Legislative Council, the Municipal Council and the Town Council for other matters connected therewith. It also provides for the appointment of an Electoral Commissioner and a Deputy Electoral Commissioner.

The Shipping and Harbour (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 19 of 1958)

This Ordinance regulates the payment of dues in respect of the use of quays.

The Succession and Donation Duties Ordinance (No. 24 of 1958)

This Ordinance consolidates the laws of the Colony relating to duty payable on successions and donations. It contains, among others, provisions intended to prevent evasion of succession duties by means of Life Assurance policies on payment of premiums at abnormal rates.

The Affidavits of Prescription Ordinance (No. 27 of 1958)

This Ordinance provides means by which the dishonest practice of swearing false affidavits of prescription can be stopped. A person wishing to have an affidavit transcribed is now under the obligation to make an application for such transcription and notice of such application has to be published in the *Government Gazette* and daily newspapers.

The Fabriques (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 28 of 1958)

This Ordinance makes better provision for the constitution and renewal of Parochial Assemblies known as Fabriques.

The Plaines Wilhems Sewerage Ordinance (No. 29 of 1958)

This Ordinance provides for the construction and operation of a Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works in the District of Plaines Wilhems.

The Trade Marks (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 32 of 1958)

This Ordinance, introducing legislation similar to the provisions of section 20 of the United Kingdom Trade Marks Act, 1938, provides for the duration and renewal of the registration of Trade Marks.

*The Cyclone and Drought Insurance Fund (Amendment) Ordinance
(No. 35 of 1958)*

This Ordinance removes certain weaknesses revealed during the recent working of the scheme and makes provision for the better protection of the rights of beneficiaries and for the prevention of frauds to the prejudice of the Fund.

*The Liquor (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance
(No. 36 of 1958)*

This Ordinance abolishes the Liquor Licensing Board and gives to the appropriate District Magistrate the power to issue, renew and transfer liquor licences.

*The Mauritius Child Care Society Ordinance
(No. 37 of 1958)*

This Ordinance sets up a Mauritius Child Care Society to promote child care and mothercraft in all sections of the Mauritius Community and specially among the poorer classes.

*The Sugar Industry Reserve Funds (Amendment) Ordinance
(No. 40 of 1958)*

This Ordinance provides for the incorporation of the Sugar Planters Rehabilitation Fund Committee established under the Sugar Industry Reserve Funds Ordinance, 1958.

Chapter 9 : Justice, Police and Prisons

J U S T I C E

The Laws of Mauritius are mainly based on the French Codes. The Civil Code, the Penal Code, the Code of Commerce and the Code of Civil Procedure, with such amendments as have been made thereto to suit local conditions, are still to a large extent in force in the Colony. There are also a great number of Ordinances.

The Bankruptcy Law, the Company Law, the Law of Evidence and the Law of Criminal Procedure are, however, mostly English, as well as is the whole system of the Labour Laws.

The highest judicial authority is the Supreme Court of the Colony of Mauritius and its Dependencies consisting of the Chief Justice and three Puisne Judges.

The Executive Officer of that Court is the Master and Registrar, who is also a Judge of the Bankruptcy Division of the Court.

The Supreme Court is a superior Court of record and has the same powers, authority and jurisdiction as the High Court of Justice in England. It exercises jurisdiction in divorce matters and Admiralty jurisdiction in virtue of the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act, 1890, and is also a Court of Equity. It has powers of supervision over all the other Courts of the Colony and hears appeals from the Supreme Court of the Colony of Seychelles in civil matters.

Appeals lie to the Privy Council in certain cases against judgments of the Supreme Court.

The Judges of the Supreme Court preside over the Assize Court, the verdict being returned by a jury of nine men; the decision must be that of at least seven out of the nine members.

Since the 1st January, 1955, there has been a Court of Criminal Appeal. The Chief Justice and the Judges of the Supreme Court are the Judges of that Court which is constituted by three Judges. That Court hears appeals from persons convicted before the Supreme Court.

The District Magistrates of the Colony have jurisdiction in civil cases in which the subject matter does not exceed Rs 3,000 in value. They hold judicial enquiries in cases of fire or accidental death, and preliminary enquiries in cases triable by the Assize Court. In addition they deal with certain matters in Chambers.

The summary jurisdiction of a District Court in criminal matters is vested in a District Magistrate who deals with the less serious offences and is empowered to sentence an accused party to impri-

sonment with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding one year, and to a fine not exceeding Rs 1,000.

Certain offences may be tried by an intermediary Court consisting of a Bench of three Magistrates who have power to impose a sentence of penal servitude of not more than three years and a sentence of imprisonment of not more than two years, and who may also impose any fine not exceeding the maximum provided by law for the offence dealt with by them.

There are now 14 Magistrates, of whom one administers justice in Rodrigues and is also Civil Commissioner for that Dependency.

A visiting Magistrate inspects once annually each of the Lesser Dependencies.

There is in addition an Industrial Court which is presided over by a Magistrate and which has exclusive jurisdiction—subject to appeal or review—in all labour disputes including workmen's compensation cases and matters arising out of factory legislation.

Administrative control of the Magistracy has, since 1945, been vested in the Chief Justice.

The majority of the civil cases brought before District Courts concern claims for money, or possession of tenement, or ownership of land.

On the criminal side, most of the cases, other than petty breaches of the law, relate to offences involving fraud, e.g. larceny, embezzlement, forgery, or swindling, or offences against the person, e.g., wounds and blows, indecent acts and assaults, or breaches of the road traffic laws.

During the year 26 cases were brought before the Court of Assizes. Two cases went before the Court of Criminal Appeal.

There were 500 civil cases entered before the Supreme Court as compared with 535 in 1957. 880 cases were entered before the Industrial Court as compared with 284 in 1957, and 5,608 civil cases and 21,725 criminal cases were heard by the District Courts.

POLICE

Functions

The functions of the Mauritius Police Force are prescribed by section 14 of the Police Ordinance (Cap. 312). They include preserving the public peace, the prevention and detection of crimes, misdemeanours and contraventions, the regulation of traffic, the execution of warrants and summonses issued by the Courts, and the conduct of prosecutions in Court.

In addition to their primary task of maintaining law and order, the Police are responsible for the control of immigration and emigration, weights and measures, the issue of certain licences and the collection of the fees therefor, the supervision of licensed premises, and other extraneous duties.

Strength

The Police Force consists of a Commissioner of Police, and of such other Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Constables as the Legislature may authorise from time to time. The authorised establishment of the Force at the 31st December, 1958, was 34 officers and 1,137 other ranks; its actual strength was 29 officers and 1,091 other ranks. In addition 28 Police Women are employed on clerical work.

Organization

The Commissioner of Police, assisted by the Deputy Commissioner of Police and other officers, has his Headquarters at Line Barracks in Port Louis.

The personnel of the Force is distributed between:

(a) Police Headquarters and the following Branches or Sections:

- (i) The Forensic Science Laboratory
- (ii) The Criminal Investigation Division, to which is attached the Revenue and Liquor Section
- (iii) The Immigration and Passport Section
- (iv) The Road Traffic Branch
- (v) The Transport and Communications Section
- (vi) The Training School and Reserve
- (vii) The Band
- (viii) The Railway Police
- (ix) The Water Police
- (x) The Pay and Quartermaster's Branch
- (xi) The Rodrigues Police.

(b) Six Police Districts, controlling 48 stations and posts.

The Forensic Science Laboratory

This important institution was set up in 1938 and maintains a high degree of professional competence. It is under the charge of the Police Medical Officer, who is assisted by a suitably trained staff.

The Laboratory deals with the scientific examination of exhibits, the examination of documents and the identification of handwriting and typewriting in relation to cases of forgery and kindred offences. It also deals with any other aspect of crimes requiring scientific investigation.

The Criminal Investigation Division

This Division is responsible for the investigation of serious crimes and cases of a special nature such as frauds and defalcations. It assists the District Police when necessary and collates the statistics of crime for the whole Island. To the C.I.D. are attached the Finger Print and *Modus Operandi* Bureau, the Central Registry of Habitual Criminals and the Revenue and Liquor Section.

Finger Print and Modus Operandi Bureau. During the year, 257 scenes were visited by the staff and articles bearing finger prints were brought to the Finger Print Office by the District Police in 109 cases. Decipherable prints were found in 43 cases; 18 identifications were made. In seven cases finger prints were the sole evidence available against the accused parties. In 73 cases documents bearing finger prints were referred to the Finger Print Office and in three cases identity was established. The finger print slips of 14,868 criminals (male and female) are on record. The "scene of crime" collection contains 182 photographs of unidentified prints found at scenes of crime. The palm print collection contains 2,174 prints. 522 criminals are on the Findex System.

Photographic Section. The photographic work done by the section during the year was of valuable assistance. The 7,441 photographs supplied by the section included 102 crime scenes and 74 scenes of fatal or serious accidents. 496 criminals were photographed, and 4 dead bodies were photographed to assist identification. 378 photographs were also supplied for warrant cards issued to members of the Force and special constables.

Habitual Criminals. Supervision is maintained over habitual criminals and bad characters who are sentenced to Police Supervision by the Courts. There were 2,077 re-convicted male criminals in the Island, including 150 first offenders re-convicted during the year.

Revenue and Liquor Section. This section controls the collection of inland revenue and for that purpose keeps a card index record of all trade licences issued quarterly. Regular checks of licensed premises are effected by the personnel of the Section whose duties also include the prevention and detection of offences against Distillery, Liquor, Dangerous Drugs, and Weights and Measures laws. The Section pays particular attention to the detection of opium and other narcotic drugs, illicit distillation of spirits and the prevention of gambling.

The Section searched opium dens and persons on the road suspected of carrying opium. Prepared opium and raw opium were

secured in seven and two cases respectively; two pipes were also secured. Cases of possession of gandia detected by the Police numbered 105 and 41,685 kilos of gandia and 400 grams of gandia seed were secured. Cases of cultivation of gandia plants detected numbered 32 and 30,381 plants were uprooted and secured.

Firearms are strictly controlled. The number of firearms licensed during the year was 5,742.

The Immigration and Passport Section

During the year, 1,469 passports (including 160 free) were issued, 367 renewed and 157 visaed. 79 emergency certificates of nationality, 8 collective passports, and 25 Seaman's certificates of nationality and identity were issued. 45 forms of affidavit in lieu of passport were registered. The immigration staff attended 365 ships arriving in Port Louis and 203 aircraft at Plaisance Airport. 8,571 persons entered the Colony, including 169 immigrants, and 8,774 left, including 163 emigrants.

Road Traffic Branch

The Road Traffic Branch is responsible for driving tests, the issue of driver's licences, and the examination of motor vehicles as to fitness and roadworthiness. 8,198 vehicles were tested and 2,124 persons underwent driving tests, of whom 638 passed the test.

There are 12,284 registered motor vehicles, showing an increase of 828 on 1957. There were 3,442 accidents as compared with 3,443 in 1957. When the increase in the volume of traffic on the road is taken into account, the figure of 3,442 shows fair improvement. The following steps were taken to reduce the number of accidents: widening and surface-repairing of roads, improvement of parking arrangements, more numerous mobile and foot patrols and speed checks, and education of drivers and pedestrians. The Traffic Branch delivered lectures on road safety to 42,770 school children.

Transport and Communications Branch

The Transport and Communications Branch has under its control a Transport Unit and a radio-telephone network.

The Transport Unit consists of:

Motor Cycles	...	...	25
Land Rovers	...	...	19
Vans and Light Trucks	...	...	8
Prisoners' Vans	...	...	3
Lorries	...	...	7 (including a mobile canteen)
Motor cars	...	...	20 (including 13 W/T cars)
Cyclomasters	...	...	16

The radio-telephone network operates on VHF. At the Information or Control Room situated at Police Headquarters are two 15 watt VHF transmitter-receivers: the first set controls directly the W/T cars operating in the town of Port Louis and the second set remotely operates a 50 watt VHF repeater station which is situated on the highlands of Curepipe. From Curepipe signals are re-radiated to most parts of the Island.

In addition to those already installed at 10 police stations, static sets were installed at four more police stations.

A set has been installed at Plaisance Airport to establish radio communication between the airport and the Information Room at Police Headquarters in order to facilitate the work of the air crash and air/sea rescue organisation.

All Police Stations and Branches are linked by telephone.

P.B.Xs are installed at the six Police District Headquarters to enable inter-communication between stations in Districts.

Training

Recruits between the ages of 19 and 25 are enlisted after undergoing educational and medical examinations. Recruitment has remained a problem and there has been little improvement in the standard of recruits. It was hoped that with the revision of Police salaries a better type would be forthcoming but this cannot yet be said to have occurred.

The Training School, which is a residential institution, aims at training members of the Force on the same lines as in the United Kingdom and at fostering in them such qualities as tact, patience, tolerance, good humour, initiative, and ability to rely on their own judgement and resources. Recruits joining the Training School normally go through a six months' course which includes adequate instruction in laws, police duties and procedure, general knowledge, first aid, elementary drill, riot drill, physical training, self-defence, and swimming.

Recruits undergo theoretical training for the first three months, and practical training, including station and street duties, during the second half of the course.

Lectures on medical jurisprudence, first aid and hygiene are delivered by the Police Medical Officer.

The Band

The Mauritius Police Band which was first established in 1921 is a full military brass band, made up of trained musicians. There issued out of it in 1947 a dance orchestra, which has since been in

fairly regular demand at balls and social gatherings and for stage productions. It also plays at hospitals for the benefit of patients. The Band had 339 engagements during the year and its total earnings amounted to Rs 32,797.70, which accrued to the Police Band Fund.

The Railway Police

An Inspector, a Sergeant and nine Constables are attached to the Railway Department as a special Force to deal with offences committed on the Railway.

The Water Police

The Water Police are under the orders of the Superintendent of Police, Port Louis District. The unit comprises one Corporal and nine Constables. It is equipped with a 15 H.P. motor launch suitable for use only within the harbour. The unit regularly patrols Port Louis Harbour and sees to the maintenance of law and order and compliance with harbour regulations. Its duties also include preventing persons from stowing away, assisting in the enforcement of immigration and quarantine laws, supervising the unloading of cattle, and preventing smuggling.

During the year the Water Police attended 377 ships in harbour.

The Pay and Quartermaster's Branch

This Branch is divided into two Sections: the Pay Section and the Store Section, the latter under the special charge of the Assistant Pay and Quartermaster. The Pay Section is responsible for all the financial transactions and accounting of the Force and for the collection of inland revenue. The Store Section deals with indents for materials, the manufacture and issue of uniforms for all ranks, and the supply generally of stores and accoutrements to the Force.

The Rodrigues Police

The Rodrigues Police, under the orders of an Assistant Superintendent, is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the dependency. The authorised establishment is one Officer and 30 other ranks.

Special Constabulary

In accordance with section 47 of the Police Ordinance (Cap. 312) special constables may be appointed at any time. A start was made in 1955 with the enrolment and training of 100 special constables on the lines of the Special Constabulary in Great Britain. In 1958 the approved strength was 24 Officers and 200 Other Ranks.

First Aid: St. John Ambulance Association

Courses of instruction in First Aid are given to members of the Force, the Railway Department and the Fire Service. All lectures are delivered by qualified medical officers or lay lecturers with the assistance of instructors for practical demonstration in accordance with the regulations of the St. John Ambulance Overseas. Examinations were held during the year and 540 members of the Police Force are now qualified and hold the St. John's certificate.

A Mauritius Police Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade has been formed and registered at the Overseas Headquarters in England.

The Home Nursing Division which was registered and approved on the 1st April, 1952, has a strength of 28.

Games, Recreation and Welfare

As much time as possible is devoted to the playing of games and to recreation generally. The Force possesses good football, volley ball and hockey teams. Inter-district and friendly matches with local teams are frequently played. A start has been made with boxing and swimming.

An "Off-Duty" concert, organized with the co-operation of local artists, played to a full house and provided entertainment which was widely appreciated.

The Officers, Inspectorate, N.C.Os and Constables each have their own mess and recreation rooms. A well-stocked canteen is open to all ranks of the Force. The Police Band contributes to official and demi-official functions in the various messes and institutions of the Force.

A library and reading room is open daily to members of the Force and to public subscribers. Books, reviews, and newspapers are regularly imported and are circulated throughout the Colony among members of the Force posted at out-stations in the country districts. The stock of English and French books in the library is 11,634.

A Police Federation of all ranks from Inspector to Constable advises on matters concerning the welfare and efficiency of its members, other than matters of discipline and promotions affecting individuals.

Honours and Awards

The Colonial Police Medal for meritorious service was awarded to one Police Officer and the Colonial Police Long-Service Medal was awarded to 18 members of the Force.

Offences

The number of offences reported to the Police in 1958 was as follows:—

Crimes	1,012
Misdemeanours	17,503
Contraventions	23,394
TOTAL	41,909

P R I S O N S

Functions of the Prisons Department

The principal duty of the Prisons Department is to maintain in safe custody the offenders delivered to its care. Subject to this, every possible effort is made by education, training in crafts, the issue of books and periodicals, the showing of instructional films and the introduction of privilege for good behaviour to imbue the prisoners with a sense of dignity, of self-respect and of duty towards the community and country such as will fit them to re-enter the outside world as useful citizens on completion of their sentence.

Functions of the Prisons Department

There are four institutions in the colony dealing with persons received from the courts:

- (a) **Central Prison, Beau Bassin**, to which the Women's Prison is attached;
- (b) **Borstal Institution, Grand River North West**;
- (c) **Industrial School, Beau Bassin**;
- (d) **Richelieu Rehabilitation Centre**.

Central Prison

Beau Bassin Prison consists of two three-storey blocks accommodating 980 prisoners in separate cells and a remand block having 6 large communal and 6 separate cells accommodating 50 prisoners. There are also workshops where the following trades are taught: blacksmithing, tinsmithing, carpentry (3 shops), tailoring, shoe-making, basketry, mat-making and book-binding. There is also a concrete block-making industry and the erection of new buildings is carried out by prisoners. There are two hospital wards, together with stores and isolation wards.

The administrative headquarters of the service are situated in the Central Prison, at which all prisoners, both male and female, are received and discharged.

Within the men's prison at Beau Bassin there are now six yards laid out with flower beds and lawns where prisoners can associate for meals and leisure. Prisoners are segregated according to classification in the different yards:—

No. 1 Yard—Felon Recidivists

No. 2 Yard—Ordinary Recidivists

No. 3 Yard—Punishment Yard

No. 4 Yard—Stars (First offenders, all ages)

No. 5 Yard—Young prisoners (17–23 years)

No. 6 Yard—Remand Yard.

The classes are kept segregated as far as possible while at work. There is also a grade system in operation whereby a prisoner can by good behaviour pass successively from Probationary to 3rd, 2nd and 1st Grade, each grade having certain privileges, such as extra books, longer time in association and the playing of games.

Young prisoners now undergo recreational training under a trained instructor, morning and afternoon. There are also three voluntary recreational classes each evening. A qualified school teacher is attached to the Department and takes three voluntary educational classes each evening after prison labour has ceased.

A cinema show is given inside the prison twice a month, when films of topical and educational interest are shown. During weekends (on Saturdays and Sundays) the football pitch outside the prison is used by prisoners. About 200 prisoners enjoy this privilege each week, not including those who go out as spectators. Prisoners now have their own football team which plays against civilian teams on Wednesday evenings, when about 200 prisoner spectators are permitted to attend. Volley-ball pitches and a basket-ball pitch inside the prison walls are in use daily after labour.

The number of unofficial visitors, both to the men's and women's prisons, has increased.

The women prisoners are housed in the women's prison which was opened in May, 1951. It adjoins the main prison but has a separate entrance. The grounds are attractively laid out with lawns, flowers and a vegetable plot. A large number of fruit trees and flowering shrubs has been planted. The inmates, who are few in number, are taught sewing, gardening and mat-weaving, the latter by unofficial visitors.

Borstal Institution

The Borstal Institution is of minimum security and has accommodation for about 125 youths. It is run on similar lines to a Borstal in the United Kingdom.

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Institution
The Borstal Institution is of minimum security and has accommodation for about 125 youths. It is run on similar lines to a Borstal in the United Kingdom.

The inmates are classified into the ordinary, probationary and special grades; there is also a penal grade for boys under 14 years of age. Apart from classification, they are divided into "houses" (Red, Blue and White) which compete to win the interest.

The lads receive daily instruction in carpentry, tin-smithing, tailoring, cooking, boot and shoe-making and gardening. The number of boys goes daily to the Forest Nursery for work and instruction. In addition physical training and educational classes are conducted by a qualified teacher.

Educational films are shown and explained to the lads monthly and outdoor games are organised each evening. The special and probationary grades go to the seaside three times a week to enjoy swimming. Football matches are played between outside teams and an annual sports day has been instituted. All boys attended their camp in September.

A Borstal Visiting Committee meets monthly and, among other things, decides on questions of release.

Industrial School

The School has accommodation for about 200 boys and runs on the same lines as an English Approved School.

Boys up to the age of 18 years are catered for. The seniors are divided into "houses" (Red, White and Blue), while the juniors (under 14) are separately accommodated and fed in the House. A monthly "house" competition is run with points for conduct, cleanliness and upkeep of the house gardens.

All junior boys attend school daily for four hours under qualified teachers and receive primary school instruction up to the 5th Standard. After the 5th Standard, boys who are still of primary age attend an ordinary Government primary school. Seniors who are illiterate attend school three evenings a week.

All boys do daily physical training under a qualified instructor and in addition take part in organised games. Films of educational value are shown and commented on by the Visual Education Officer and lectures on citizenship, forestry, electricity and animal husbandry have been given by experts who have offered their services to help the boys. Instruction in tinsmithing, brushmaking, basket-making, carpentry, cooking and gardening is given to the boys in accordance with their aptitudes.

The School drum-and-fife band is popular and always well appreciated. All boys have an opportunity of spending a fortnight on canvas at the sea.

The Richelieu Rehabilitation Centre

A Rehabilitation Centre, designed for short and long term first offenders, was opened on the first July. Thirty-five selected prisoners, under the control and supervision of one Assistant Superintendent, one Principal Officer and seven officers, were transferred to the Centre and accommodated under canvas.

Prison building units, staffed by trained prisoners, moved on to the site on the 1st July and the foundation stone of the first dormitory was laid by the Governor on the 2nd October.

Religious and educational facilities are afforded to the prisoners.

Prison Discipline

During 1958, six reports were dealt with by the Prison Board and 549 by the Commissioner.

Remissions

All prisoners sentenced to imprisonment, whether by one sentence or by consecutive sentences, for a period of not less than 30 days are entitled to have one-third of their sentences remitted.

No payment is yet made for prison labour but an earnings scheme is in operation.

Chapter 10 : Public Utilities and Public Works

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY BOARD

Electricity

The Central Electricity Board continues to be the sole producer and distributor of electricity throughout the Island.

Installed capacity of plant and units generated during the year were as follows:—

			Kw	Units
<i>Hydro :—</i>				
Tamarind Falls	...	...	8,000	27,196,750
Réduit	...	...	600	2,725,194
Cascade Cécile	...	...	310	789,740
<i>Thermal-C.E.B. :—</i>				
St. Louis	...	...	7,000	16,051,750
Sack Factory	...	...	500	4,840
<i>Thermal-Sugar Estates :—</i>				
St. Antoine	...	...	250	79,410
F.U.E.L.	...	...	1,500	2,050,400
TOTAL			18,160	48,898,084

Work on the major Eau Bleue hydro-electric scheme with a capacity of 4,000 KW continued, the civil engineering works being undertaken by the Public Works Department. The scheme is due for completion early in 1959. The Magenta hydro-electric scheme (1,000 KW) and the La Ferme scheme (1,200 KW) also made substantial progress.

Agreements with sugar estates for the purchase of surplus crop-season power from their factories led to the Board's taking over 2 million units from this source during 1958 and the figure is likely to rise to 8 million units by 1960.

The Board's concrete pole manufacturing plant produced 1,522 poles of various sizes which were used in the extension and strengthening of the H.V. and L.V. distribution system, of which a total of 82.3 miles of line was erected during the year.

Extension of supply to areas previously unserved with electricity and considerable system strengthening continued, and many new villages and localities were given a supply.

The total number of consumers at the end of the year was 41,097, representing an increase of 7.1% over 1957.

WATER SUPPLIES

Domestic Water Supplies

The principal sources of domestic water supplies are Mare-aux-Vacoas, Grand River North West and Piton du Milieu.

The supply from Mare-aux-Vacoas is derived from a storage reservoir of 597 million cubic feet capacity at an elevation of 1,850 feet above sea level and provides water for about half the population of the Island. It serves the district of Plaines Wilhems and parts of the districts of Moka, Black River and Port Louis. Important works of improvement to this water supply are being carried out further to extend the supply and to meet the increased demand due to the growth of population and to the rise in the standard of living. Consumption in 1958 reached a maximum of 12,360,000 gallons per day. The total consumption for the year was 3,627,229,000 gallons. The water is filtered and chlorinated before distribution. New filters were brought into operation and works begun to raise the dam and increase the storage capacity of the reservoir to 975 M.C.F.

The Grand River North West water supply is derived from the river of that name at an elevation of about 250 feet above sea level. The supply amounts to 5,000,000 gallons per day. It is managed by the Municipality of Port Louis and serves exclusively the town of Port Louis with a population of about 85,000. The water is filtered and chlorinated before use.

The Piton du Milieu reservoir is now in operation and provides water to localities in the North, East and South of the Island comprising the districts of Rivière du Rempart, Flacq, Grand Port, Savanne and part of Moka, gradually replacing former unsatisfactory supply sources. The new supply is derived from a storage reservoir of 110 million cubic feet capacity at an elevation of 1,435 feet. The scheme, as now completed, supplies 4,000,000 gallons per day to a population of about 143,000 inhabitants. The reservoir was completed at the end of 1953, and work is continuing on the construction of filters which are to be completed and put into operation in 1959.

The supply system now covers nearly the whole of the area to be served and an extension of the supply to the villages on the coast between Grand River South East and Vieux Grand Port is being carried out.

Irrigation

Irrigation is carried out in the Black River District from La Ferme reservoir and in the Districts of Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart from La Nicolière reservoir.

La Ferme reservoir, at an elevation of 450 feet above sea level, has a capacity of 417 million cubic feet and serves to irrigate at present 1,500 acres. Additional supplies are being derived from

Mare-aux-Vacoas, Mare Longue and Tamarind Falls reservoirs by means of the Magenta Canal (completed in 1954) which irrigates a further 2,500 acres.

La Nicolière reservoir, at an elevation of 800 feet above sea level, has a capacity of 200 million cubic feet and serves to irrigate about 1,000 acres of land. The reservoir is linked to Midlands by the Midlands—La Nicolière Feeder Canal 17 miles long.

Hydro-Electric Power

Water for hydro-electric purposes is supplied from three reservoirs:

- (a) the Mare-aux-Vacoas reservoir mentioned above;
- (b) the Mare Longue reservoir of a storage capacity of 200 million cubic feet at an elevation of 1,900 feet above sea level;
- (c) the Tamarind Falls reservoir of a storage capacity of 72 million cubic feet at an elevation of 1,625 feet above sea level.

The three reservoirs are situated in the catchment area of the Tamarind river and supply water to a power station situated at 960 feet below the Tamarind Falls reservoir. After going through the power station, water passes through the Magenta Canal and is used for irrigation purposes in the Black River district.

Work on the hydro-electric project at Eau Bleue was started early in 1955 and continued in 1958. The scheme provides for the construction of an earth dam of approximately 8.65 million cubic feet and the storage of 220 million cubic feet of water. The site of the reservoir is on River Eau Bleue near Midlands. A fall of 600 feet will be made available by cutting through a ridge separating the reservoir site from Le Val where the power station will be situated. By the end of the year some 8.5 MCF of earth had been placed in the dam and work had progressed satisfactorily on the forebay and penstock. The power station building was nearing completion.

The power station will have an output capacity of about 5 million KWH per annum making use of the flow of River Eau Bleue alone. By supplementing the flow of River Eau Bleue by that of River Citron, the output of the power station may be increased to 8 million KWH per annum. The total output can further be increased to 14 million units by diverting part of Grand River South East into the reservoir.

PUBLIC WORKS

Under the general control of the Minister of Works the Public Works and Surveys Department is responsible for:

- (a) the maintenance and/or construction of (i) all Government works in connection with water supplies, roads, bridges, cemeteries, quays and machinery at the Harbour, (ii) Military Works on behalf of the Military Authorities and (iii) Government buildings costing not more than Rs 10,000;
- (b) the management of all Crown lands and lands forming part of the *domaine public*, and the acquisition of land for public purposes;
- (c) the leasing of sand quarries;
- (d) the valuation and the inspection of all lands pledged to Government, the assessment of damage caused by fire to canefields or other properties and the assessment of compensation for property acquired;
- (e) advice to Government on public works and all questions relating to the other functions of the Department.

The supply of materials from overseas was regular during the year and good progress was made in the development of the water works undertaken by the Department.

Maintenance work was also carried out without any difficulty.

Much attention was given to the maintenance and improvement of roads.

O B S E R V A T O R Y

The Observatory Department maintains a meteorological and magnetic station at the Royal Alfred Observatory, Pamplemousses, an administrative and forecasting headquarters at Vacoas and a meteorological observing station at Plaisance airport. Meteorological observing stations are also maintained in the Dependencies at Agaléga, Diégo Garcia, Rodrigues and St. Brandon.

Complete rainfall records were collected from nearly 200 gauges distributed over the Colony. Over 400 meteorological observations were collected each month from ships at sea. The daily weather maps covered, as far as possible, the whole of the Indian Ocean and surrounding continents between 15° N and 50° S. Meteorological observations and forecasts were prepared and transmitted daily for the use of meteorological services of other countries, shipping, aviation, Government departments and the public. Special warnings of tropical cyclones were provided and numerous general enquiries from authorities overseas and in the colony were answered.

The Observatory Department participated in the additional activities undertaken on a world-wide scale during the International

Geophysical Year lasting from July, 1957, to December, 1958. The main activities of the Department were in the increased observational programme at meteorological stations, from which full records were sent to the International Data Centre of the World Meteorological Organisation at Geneva, and the establishment of a new radiosonde and radar wind station in Mauritius. Additional magnetic observations were also made at Pamplemousses and the Department co-operated with the scientists of the American research ship *Vema* in calibrating and installing instruments.

On the 26th November Mauritius became an independent Member of the World Meteorological Organisation, after having been for seven years a joint Member with the British East African Territories and Seychelles.

THE GRANARY

The Granary, which was completed in 1933, is a two-storeyed building of ferro-concrete and brick and covers an area of $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres. It adjoins a Lighter Quay, 389 feet long, served by six electrically-operated hoists which lift bagged grain from lighters at the quay to the top floor of the building, which is operated as a Customs transit shed. From the top floor, grain is delivered by gravity chutes to the first and ground floors which are divided into twelve and six separate stores. Other gravity chutes connect the first floor with the delivery yard at the rear of the building.

The Granary Ordinance (Cap. 64) prescribes that all grain (which includes rice, dholl, lentils, gram, peas and any other cereal which may be declared grain for that purpose by Proclamation), shall be discharged from ships to lighters and conveyed to the Granary for storage. The Ordinance limits the amount of grain which may be stored elsewhere than at the Granary.

The building was designed and erected with the object of protecting grain against contamination and destruction by pests, particularly rodents, and all entrances, exits and personnel lifts are operated with this in view.

After allowing for passageways and separation of cargoes, storage capacity is sufficient for approximately 500,000 bags of grain (about 34,500 tons).

All grain is stored in the Granary in bags: there is no bulk storage. Pest infestation is prevented as far as possible by spraying insecticide. Measures against white ants and termites are carried out by a local firm under contract and stores are fumigated as frequently as traffic permits.

The Granary Department, which is responsible for the administration and maintenance of the building, is under the control of the Granary Superintendent who is also the Comptroller of Customs. Handling and stacking of grain is carried out by contract labour. During the year 1957-58, 75,840 tons of rice and 4,233 tons of other grain were handled.

GOVERNMENT FIRE SERVICES

The functions of the Fire Services are prescribed in section 4 of the Fire Services Ordinance (No. 56 of 1953) and consist in taking all available measures with a view to extinguishing fires and to protecting life and property in case of fires in any area outside the District and Town of Port Louis.

The Department comprises an administrative office in Port Louis and six fire stations at Curepipe, Rose Hill, Quatre Bornes, Rivière des Anguilles, Mahébourg and Piton. On the 31st December, 1958, the staff was composed of 1 Controller, 1 Office Supervisor, 1 Chief Officer, 1 Deputy Chief Officer, 2 Station Officers, 20 Sub-Officers, 24 Leading Firemen and 141 Firemen.

The Service responded to 340 fire calls, compared with 380 in the previous year. The loss caused by fire, excluding loss in the Port Louis municipal area, was estimated at Rs 551,980 compared with Rs 635,870 in 1957. Appliances on fire calls covered 9,690 vehicle miles.

Within the area covered by the Service there were 913 fire hydrants on the 31st December, 1958, including 81 new hydrants installed during the year.

The number of requests for the attendance of firemen during performances of stage plays was 94 and the attendance fees collected during the year amounted to Rs 1,905.

In accordance with Regulation 4(2) of the Inflammable Liquids and Substances Regulations (Government Notice No. 179 of 1953) 17 certificates were issued by the Controller of Fire Services to the effect that the premises on which filling stations will operate are adequately protected against fire.

Fire appliances in nearly all Government buildings and cinema halls were tested.

Thirty-nine requests for pumping on sugar estates and private premises were attended to and fees for these attendances amounted to Rs 8,104.37.

The average cost per man in the Service during the year was Rs 4,874 while the cost of the Service per head of population (excluding the inhabitants of Port Louis) was Rs 1.94. The total revenue collected in 1957-58 was Rs 54,147.

The mobile appliances distributed to the various fire stations included 9 fire engines, 4 large and 11 small trailer pumps, 6 water lorries, 1 water trailer, 3 cars, 1 lorry, 2 foam vans, 6 hose carriers, 2 Land Rovers, 1 " scooter " motor cycle and 4 bicycles.

Chapter 11 : Communications

SHIPPING

Port Louis, the capital of the Island, is also the only port. Ten ocean-going and four small vessels can be accommodated at any one time.

Vessels are normally moored at buoys in the harbour, though two quays are available, one of 492 feet and able to take a vessel of 29 feet draft and one of 390 feet for vessels of drafts up to 17 feet. Both coal and oil bunkers are available in limited quantities; there is a good supply of fresh water.

Regular cargo services are provided from the United Kingdom by the Clan Line, Bullard King Limited and the Ellerman Lines, and from continental and French Mediterranean ports by the French Companies *Messageries Maritimes* and *Nouvelle Compagnie Havraise Péninsulaire*. The Scindia Steamship Co. is now operating a monthly service from Bombay to Mauritius and West Africa.

Passenger services direct from the United Kingdom to Mauritius are infrequent. The French vessels from Marseilles to Mauritius provide the better service.

The Dutch *Royal Interocean Line* vessels call at Port Louis regularly on the Far East, South Africa and South America service, thereby providing a regular passenger and cargo service to and from the Far East and South Africa. Passengers wishing to travel to the United Kingdom usually tranship from the Dutch vessels to the Union Castle Line at Durban.

A total of 381 vessels entered Port Louis harbour during the year, with a total net registered tonnage of 1,456,905 tons. Of these 381 vessels, 168 were of British Registry, 63 French, 67 Dutch, 26 Norwegian, four Swedish, two United States, one Italian, eight Panamanian, two Liberian, nine Japanese, nine Indian, seven German, one Australian, one Danish, two Finnish, three Greek, one Yugoslav, five U.S.S.R., one Ceylonese and one S. African.

There are four small vessels on the local register. Three of them are employed on services to the dependencies of Mauritius and the fourth, M.V. *Mauritius*, a 1,165 NRT cargo and passenger liner, is employed on runs to the dependencies, Madagascar, South and East Africa and Australia. These vessels have a combined net registered tonnage of 2,160 tons.

During the year 3,855 passengers entered the Colony by sea and 4,253 left the Island.

CIVIL AVIATION

There is only one airport in Mauritius. It is situated at Plaisance, in the south-east of the Island about three miles from the coast, and is managed by the Civil Aviation Department of the Mauritius Government.

Air France have scheduled "Super Constellation" services twice weekly between Paris and Mauritius via Nairobi, Madagascar and Réunion. *Qantas Empire Airways* provide a fortnightly scheduled "Super Constellation" service between Sydney and Johannesburg via Melbourne, Perth, Cocos Islands and Mauritius and from South Africa to Australia via the same route. *South African Airways* operate a fortnightly scheduled service between Johannesburg and Perth along the same route, alternating with the Qantas flights.

No aircraft is based in Mauritius and no internal services exist.

The meteorological services at the airport are under the control of the Director of Observatory, who is responsible for providing forecasts and all other meteorological information required; meteorological observers are stationed at the airport.

Apart from normal air-ground communication services, daily point-to-point schedules were maintained throughout 1958 with East Africa (Nairobi), Madagascar, South Africa, Réunion and Cocos Islands.

The total number of landings and take-offs at Plaisance airport during the year amounted to 469. The number of incoming and outgoing passengers was 11,878, including 2,229 passengers in transit as compared with 10,581 during 1957. Incoming and outgoing freight amounted to 86,007 kilos and mails carried to 38,256.492 kilos.

The total amount of aviation spirit and oil used for refuelling aircraft amounted to 612,026 Imperial gallons and 7,138 Imperial gallons respectively.

RAILWAYS

The public railway system of Mauritius (4'-8½" gauge) is operated by the Government. The railway network has 82 miles of line varying between sea level and an altitude of 1,800 feet. By law heavy goods (manufactured sugar, fertilizers, coal and gunny bags) must be transported by rail. The last of the regular passenger services was run on the 31st March, 1956.

The deficit on the working of the railways amounted to Rs 1,035,227 for the financial year 1957-58.

Statistics for the financial year ended the 30th June, 1958 are as follows:

Length of line open to traffic Miles	82
Goods Traffic :	
Sugar Tons	467,160
Sugar Cane Tons	1,959
General Merchandise Tons	49,513
Goods Traffic Receipts :	
Sugar Rs	3,621,399
Sugar Cane Rs	3,082
General Merchandise Rs	253,813
Train Mileage Train Miles	122,145
Receipts per Train Mile Rs	35.76
Expenditure per Train Mile Rs	46.60
Road Motor Service:	
Total Passenger Vehicle Miles ... Vehicle Miles	132,166
Passengers carried Number	382,985
Passenger Receipts Rs	94,851
Parcels carried Number	1,249
Parcels receipts Rs	375
Goods Traffic:	
Sugar Tons	35,748
General Merchandise Tons	11,051
Goods Receipts :	
Sugar Rs	224,530
General Merchandise Rs	60,135
Number of vehicles in service:	
10 lorries and 8 trailers	
1 dual purpose vehicle	
2 buses	

ROADS

Mauritius is provided with an extensive road system, consisting of some 737 miles of public main and branch roads, most of which are suitable for motor traffic. All the roads are metalled and about 404 miles are bitumen coated. Practically all the main roads are open to heavy motor vehicles, but owing to the rapid development of road traffic during the past twenty years many of the roads are too narrow for moderately fast transport to operate in safety. There are also some blind corners and very populous villages to travel through, while the roads are further congested by slow moving goods transport and the large public transport vehicles.

The maintenance of proclaimed main and branch roads continued in the normal manner and improvements were carried out to some of the existing tarred surfaces. An additional 13 miles of roads was asphalted.

The Public Works Department is responsible for the maintenance of proclaimed roads and District Councils for the maintenance of unproclaimed roads.

ROAD TRANSPORT

There were 12,286 motor vehicles registered in the Island in 1958 as compared with 11,456 in 1957, classified as:

Private cars	6,638
Lorries	2,516
Taxis	1,225
Buses	441
Motor Cycles	850
Tractors	187
Government Vehicles	429

The figure for private cars includes 167 vans and 82 jeeps, licensed as private cars and the figure for lorries includes 423 vans licensed as carriers.

The bus fleets had increased to a total of 383 vehicles in use at the end of 1958. The repair, maintenance, and construction of coachwork improved. An average of 106,000 passengers travelled daily by bus.

There were 2,516 goods vehicles in use in 1958—an increase of 291 over the preceding year's figure. They are used mainly in connection with sugar industry for conveying cane to the factories and other materials to sugar estates. The trend towards replacing tramway haulage in the cane fields by motor vehicles and the extended acreage under cultivation have no doubt contributed substantially to the increase in the number of vehicles licensed.

VEHICLE LICENSING

The annual licence duties payable in respect of motor vehicles are as follows:—

	Rs
(a) Motor cycles, per H.P.	6
(b) Private cars, per H.P.	8
(c) (i) Taxis not exceeding 10 H.P.	108
(ii) For every additional H.P.	8
(d) (i) Motor buses not more than 10 H.P. and having a seating capacity for not more than 20 passengers	512
(ii) For every additional H.P.	8
(e) (i) Private Motor Lorries not exceeding 10 H.P.	200
(ii) Public Carriers not exceeding 10 H.P.	300
(iii) For every additional H.P.	8
(iv) Per metric ton of maximum gross weight or fraction thereof	40

Public Service and goods vehicles are licensed quarterly at proportional rates. Payment of licence duty in respect of motor cycles and private cars may be effected quarterly or yearly at the owners' option.

Visitors' licences, at the following rates, are payable in respect of privately owned motor cars and motor cycles belonging to persons on temporary visits to the Colony not exceeding three months:

Private cars	...	...	Rs 10 per month irrespective of H.P
Motor cycles	...	...	Rs 2 per month irrespective of H.P

No licence fee is charged on a private car or motor cycle for a short stay in the Colony not exceeding one week.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

The Posts and Telegraphs Department is responsible for the postal and telegraph services of the Colony and operates the Post Office Savings Bank. It also acts as an agent for a number of Government departments in so far as the collection of certain revenue and the making of certain payments are concerned. The Money Order Service is available for nearly all parts of the world, and the British Postal Order Service for most Commonwealth countries.

The main Post Office is in Port Louis. There are besides 33 post offices and 41 postal agencies spread throughout the Island and all classes of postal and telegraph business are transacted. Postal facilities are also available in Rodrigues.

Air mail connection with all parts of the world is maintained by means of the services operated by *Air France*, *Qantas Empire Airways* and *South African Airways*.

Air mail postage rates are charged on weight units of 5 grammes. The air mail postage rate to Europe and to India and Pakistan, the principal destinations of the Colony's outward correspondence, is 60 cents for 5 grammes. The Aerogramme or Air Letter Service operates to all destinations at the uniform rate of 35 cents.

The number of postal items handled during 1958 was approximately as follows:

Air mail	...	...	2,080,340
Overseas surface mail			680,930
Inland mail	...	...	5,205,820

Mauritius is linked to the rest of the world by cables and by radio installations which are operated and maintained by Cable and Wireless Limited. The Company has an office, a cable station and a radio station in Port Louis, and a cable station and a radio installation in Rodrigues. The major part of the foreign telegraph traffic concerns Port Louis and outward and inward telegrams from or for the Capital are accepted, for transmission or delivery, direct by Cable and Wireless Limited. Elsewhere foreign telegrams are received at post offices and transmitted over land

lines operated by the Posts and Telegraphs Department to the General Post Office in Port Louis, for outward transmission by Cable and Wireless: inward telegrams received by Cable and Wireless Limited are similarly transmitted by the General Post Office over the land lines to post offices for delivery.

There are 210 miles of inland telegraph lines and the number of inland telegrams handled during 1958 was 12,841 as compared with 14,940 during 1957.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The functions of the Telecommunications Department may be briefly summarised as follows:

- (a) operation of the public telephone system;
- (b) maintenance of the public telegraph service on behalf of the Posts and Telegraphs Department;
- (c) enforcement of the provisions of the Radio-Communication Ordinance (Cap. 96);
- (d) control of radio licences and collection of licence fees;
- (e) operation of the ship-to-shore W/T service and the reception and transmission of meteorological traffic on behalf of the Observatory;
- (f) installation and maintenance of radio equipment in Government buildings;
- (g) installation and maintenance of electric lighting and power services in Government buildings, including hospitals and the Government Railways;
- (h) installation and maintenance of telephones and telegraphs on behalf of the Railway Department.

There are 15 telephone exchanges in the Island:

Manual : Port Louis, Curepipe, Rose Hill and Vacoas.

Automatic: Rose Belle, Souillac, Mahébourg, Rivière des Anguilles, Flacq, Pamplemousses, Moka, Quartier Militaire, Pailles, Montagne Longue and Nouvelle France.

New rural automatic exchanges have been received for Rivière du Rempart and Mapou, and those ordered for Chemin Grenier, Rivière Dragon, L'Escalier and Plaine Magnien are expected early. Large capacity automatic exchanges have been ordered for Rose Hill and Port Louis to replace the existing manual exchanges.

At the close of the year there were 5,879 exchange lines, 11,080 miles of telephone wire and 8,155 telephone stations in ser-

vice. The number of effective telephone calls handled during 1958 amounted to 7,042,960 as compared with 6,996,755 during 1957.

Laying of a telephone cable between Curepipe and Mahébourg, with intermediate exchanges at Nouvelle France and Rose Belle, has been completed and a branch has been laid from this cable at Plaine Magnien to Plaisance airport. A further cable has been laid from Rose Belle to Chemin Grenier via Rivière des Anguilles and Souillac with a branch to Camp Diable. In the case of both cables certain final details and the installation of exchanges are necessary before cables can be fully operative. A cable has been partially laid from Chemin Grenier towards L'Escalier.

The ship-to-shore radio station at Vacoas keeps a 24 hour watch on the maritime distress frequency and also provides communication with ships up to at least 1,200 miles from Mauritius. The station handled 9,572 radiotelegrams during 1958 as compared with 9,627 during 1957.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Government Information Office and Films

THE PRESS

The history of the press in Mauritius has been traced back as far as 1778. *Le Cernéen*, one of the existing daily newspapers has had an uninterrupted existence of over 125 years and *Le Mauricien*, another daily, has been published regularly for 50 years. The languages used are French, English, Hindi and Chinese.

The following is a list of newspapers published in Mauritius: —

DAILY	WEEKLY
<i>Le Cernéen</i>	<i>La Vie Catholique</i>
<i>Le Mauricien</i>	<i>Aryoday</i>
<i>Advance</i>	<i>J.O. et Tribune Ouvrière</i>
<i>Action</i>	<i>L'Épée</i>
<i>China Times</i>	<i>Mauritius Times</i>
<i>Chinese Daily News</i>	* <i>Le Flambeau</i>
<i>New Chinese Commercial Paper</i>	* <i>New Observer</i>
* <i>Le Réveil</i>	
* <i>Chinese National Paper</i>	
TWICE WEEKLY	FORTNIGHTLY
<i>Janata</i>	<i>Zamana</i>
	<i>Le Progrès Islamique</i>
	<i>La Voix de L'Islam</i>
	<i>Mazdur</i>
MONTHLY	
* <i>Union</i>	

(*first published in 1958)

BROADCASTING

Before the Second World War broadcasting in Mauritius was run by a private commercial concern. During the war there were three stations in the Island, all partially or wholly controlled by the Government. In 1944 the Government decided to assume sole responsibility for broadcasting in the Colony and set up its own organization, "The Mauritius Broadcasting Service", which broadcasts material of a non-commercial nature.

Since 1944 the number of radio licences has increased from 2,746 to 29,161, of which 3,316 were in respect of new radio sets licensed in 1958.

In 1957-58 the recurrent expenditure of the Mauritius Broadcasting Service amounted to Rs 392,956 as compared with total revenue of Rs 352,580 derived from wireless licences.

The implementation of a scheme for the technical improvement of the Mauritius Broadcasting Service is being financed partly from local funds and partly from Colonial Development and Wel-

fare Funds. By the end of the financial year Rs 381,677 had been spent on a transmitter building and on the purchase of new equipment.

The Mauritius Broadcasting Service owns a $1\frac{1}{2}$ Kw short wave transmitter and a 5 Kw medium wave transmitter broadcasting on 19.88 metres and 220 metres respectively, both of which are located at Forest Side in the district of Plaines Wilhems in a building which also houses the studios, the news service organization and the administrative section. A new 10 Kw short-wave transmitter was purchased in 1958 but has not yet been put into operation.

The Mauritius Broadcasting Service goes on the air for an average of $57\frac{1}{2}$ hours a week in four daily transmissions in the course of which English, French, Hindustani and two Chinese dialects are spoken. It also broadcasts token programmes in Tamil, Hindi, Urdu, Telegu, Gujrati, Marathi and Swahili.

Owing to lack of local professional artists, the programmes are mainly made up of recorded music and of transcription recordings from the British Broadcasting Corporation and the *Radiodiffusion et Télévision Française*. The evening transmissions, however, include a fair proportion of 'live' items. Six news bulletins—one in English, four in French and one in Hindustani—covering a total of one hour are broadcast daily.

The Education Department broadcasts weekly during term-time five programmes of 15 minutes duration each.

The Globe Reuter News Service is monitored by the Mauritius Broadcasting Service which distributes daily 150 duplicated copies of world news to the local press, Government departments and the Garrison.

INFORMATION SERVICES

The Information Office, which is attached to the Colonial Secretary's Office, keeps the public informed of the activities and policies of Government through the press, the broadcasting service and the mobile cinema units, with the object of bringing about a closer association between Government and the public. The volume of information conveyed to the newspapers has increased. Besides the communiqués and press releases which are readily accepted for publication, news items are telephoned every day to the newspapers. The number of notices and press releases issued by the Information Office in 1958 reached 1,162, an increase of 382 on the figure for the previous year. Payment for 670 was claimed by the

press at the special rate agreed upon and the remaining 492 were published free of charge. Statements on important measures and changes in policy are broadcast over the Mauritius Broadcasting Service and are also given over the loudspeakers of the mobile cinema units. Complementary to the public address equipment of the mobile cinema units is the tape recorder which was received last year. Advantage was taken of these facilities for supporting the campaigns organised in connection with the registration of electors under the new constitution and vaccination against poliomyelitis. The public address equipment continued to be used for enlisting the co-operation of the people in the tuberculosis survey carried out by a World Health Organisation team.

Arrangements were made for journalists to be present at the arrival of H.M. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and wide coverage was given in the local press to this royal occasion.

The Information Office was also responsible for making arrangements for press conferences held by Ministers and heads of department.

The principal routine services performed by the Information Office are the preparation of a daily report on the local press, a weekly summary of leading articles and other important items and the operation of a press cutting service for heads of department. It is also the responsibility of the office to prepare a monthly news bulletin for Mauritian students in the U.K.: 85 copies are sent to the Mauritius Students Unit in London, which undertakes their distribution. Increased use was made of the translation facilities available at the office. Books, pamphlets, periodicals, photographs and publicity material were distributed to public libraries, schools and village councils.

New accessions to the photograph library brought to over 1,200 the number of prints available to the local and overseas press. Thirty-one clichés made from news photographs appeared in the four main dailies.

Place was devoted to Mauritius in the London "Times". Photographs of H.M. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother during her visit to Mauritius were reproduced in the air edition and a photographic report on the island in "The Times British Colonies Review". Other photographs were published in the monthly magazine issued by Qantas Empire Airways and "To-day".

Other activities of the Information Office include the revision of the sections devoted to Mauritius in reference books and contributions to the press overseas.

FILMS

Attending the cinema is one of the most popular recreations in Mauritius and films are consequently an effective instrument for reaching the people in rural areas. The shows given by the mobile cinema units of the Information Office were attended by an audience estimated at more than two hundred and fifty thousand. According to information compiled by the office, annual attendances at shows in the commercial cinemas was around 3,700,000. Most of the more important villages now have a local cinema hall.

The circulation of 16mm films among schools, clubs, associations as well as owners of projectors increased appreciably. Over 2,000 films were issued on loan free of charge. This figure bears witness to the popularity of the film loan service.

The distribution of the 35mm version of "British News" is the concern of the Information Office. Three main cinema companies receive one copy of each issue for which they pay a hire fee. Documentary films supplied by the U.K. Central Office of Information are circulated free of charge to commercial cinemas.

Chapter 13: Local Forces

THE MAURITIUS GARRISON

The 2/6th Bn. King's African Rifles supplied a guard in conjunction with the Police at Le Réduit, the Governor's Residence, during the three days Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother stayed there.

Colonel B. S. M. Carson (Highland Light Infantry) took over command of the Garrison in May from Colonel P. G. L. Cousens (The Duke of Wellington's Regiment), who left for his new appointment as Military Attaché in Rome. This was followed by the arrival of HT *Dunera* bringing two Companies of the 2/6th Bn. King's African Rifles from East Africa to relieve the Companies who had been in Mauritius 18 months and were due to return to Tanganyika on the same ship. His Excellency took the Salute at a farewell parade of the outgoing Companies, which coincided with the 'Colito Day' Parade celebrated each year by the Tanganyika battalions of the King's African Rifles in commemoration of an outstanding battle fought by the Regiment in the Second World War.

During the year Major General N. P. H. Tapp, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., General Officer Commanding East Africa, visited the Island. An Administrative Inspection of the Garrison was carried out in the latter part of 1958 by Brigadier P. W. P. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E., Chief of Staff, East Africa Command, and a small staff. The Inspecting Officer reported favourably on the discipline and administration of the Troops in Mauritius.

Parades were held and Salutes fired on the occasions of The Anniversary of Her Majesty The Queen's Accession, the Opening of the Legislative Council, Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday, the Fourteenth July and Remembrance Day. The Corps of Drums of the 2/6th Bn. King's African Rifles performed at a variety of civil functions throughout the year.

Guido Effendi was presented with his commissioning Warrant at Le Réduit at a Presentation of Insignia by His Excellency The Governor.

MAURITIUS NAVAL VOLUNTEER FORCE

The Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force completed its ninth year of service on the 30th September, 1958.

On the 31st December, 1958, the Force consisted of the Commanding Officer and two Chief Petty Officer Instructors as Per-

manent Staff, three R.N. Reserve Officers, eleven non-continuous service ratings, and sixty volunteer ratings.

Selection Boards for entry into the Force were held at four-monthly intervals and out of 64 applicants interviewed 34 were accepted for the new entry course, while 21 new entries were finally enrolled for three years' service. Five ratings were discharged from the Force on completion of their period of enrolment, one on leaving Mauritius, three volunteers were transferred to non-continuous service engagements, and twelve were discharged for other reasons.

Voluntary drills were held each Monday and Friday evening at Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force Headquarters, and were well attended.

All-day sea training in M.F.V. 189 was carried out twice a week in the latter half of the year, but in the earlier part of the year this was not possible as M.F.V. 189 was carrying out a lengthy survey and refit during this period. It was with much regret that, during the year, the triple-screw Torpedo Recovery Vessel *Sambur* was finally paid off after nine years' service with the Force.

All-day sea training is unfortunately only carried out by a portion of the volunteer ratings, as many are unable to take part owing to their civilian employment, and their practical experience is thus confined to shorter sea trips during drill periods, and during Annual Training, which this year took place at Cannoniers Point from the 18th to the 31st October and which was attended by 77 ratings. His Excellency the Governor inspected the Force on the 30th October, presented prizes won for boat-pulling, swimming and rifle shooting, and later spent some hours at sea in M.F.V. 189.

The intended visit of H.M.S. *Gambia*, Flagship of the East Indies Station, between the 16th and 22nd July was unfortunately cancelled at the last moment, the cruiser spending only a few hours in port during the night of the 15th—16th July before proceeding to sea. The Annual Inspection of the Force and M.N.V.F. Headquarters was carried out by His Excellency the Governor.

On the 9th September the Force was transferred to the operational control of the Commander-in-Chief, South Atlantic and South America Station.

The Force provided a ceremonial platoon of one officer and 50 ratings for the Queen's Birthday Parade at Line Barracks, Port Louis, on the 12th June, and a further ceremonial platoon of one officer and 36 ratings for the Remembrance Day Parade at the War Memorial, Curepipe, on the 9th November.

Between the 19th and 23rd November H.M.S. *Puma* took His Excellency the Governor to Rodrigues on an official visit, and during this short trip ten non-continuous service ratings of the Force were embarked for training and derived much benefit from their experience.

Chapter 14: General

THE MAURITIUS INSTITUTE

The Mauritius Institute traces its origin back to the year 1880 when an Ordinance was passed "to establish and incorporate a Public Institute, to be called the Mauritius Institute, a Public Museum and a Public Library, for the purposes of promoting the general study and cultivation of the various branches and departments of Arts, Science, Literature and Philosophy, and for the instruction and recreation of the people".

The foundation stone of the present building was laid on the 23rd November, 1880, by Sir George Bowen, then Governor. The building was completed in 1884 and in the course of the following year the Natural History Museum, known as the "Desjardins Museum", until then housed in a wing of the Royal College in Port Louis, was transferred to the new building. The public library was opened in 1903, following the munificent bequest of the Sir Virgile Naz Library which forms the nucleus of the present collection. The Institute has expanded its activities over the years and to-day it comprises a Public Library, a Natural History Museum, an Historical Museum, and a small Art Gallery.

The Institute is managed by a Board of Directors consisting of eight members appointed annually by the Governor and of such persons as may be recommended by any literary or scientific society associated with the Institute. The staff consists of a Director, a Librarian, a Curator, and eight other officers.

The Public Library

No charge is made for reading at the Mauritius Institute Public Library but a deposit of Rs 10 is required from borrowers. The stock of about 50,000 volumes comprises an almost equal number of French and English fiction and non-fiction books and a small percentage of Oriental books. A large variety of periodicals are also received at regular intervals and placed at the disposal of readers.

The library has a valuable collection of Mauritian and a reference section on the natural history of the Mascarene islands and the neighbouring regions. The library of the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius forms part of this section.

Several changes and improvements have been made in the library generally. The number of registered borrowers has increased from about 200 in 1945 to nearly 1,600 in 1958, while the number of visits of readers who frequented the library during the year was of the order of 42,000,

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Several changes and improvements have been made in the library. Generally, the number of registered borrowers has increased from about 200 in 1945 to nearly 1,600 in 1958, while the number of readers who frequented the library during the year was about 42,000.

The Natural History Museum

The Natural History Museum is mainly regional in character and contains representative collections of the fauna, flora, and geology of Mauritius and of the neighbouring islands. The Museum was visited by 63,531 persons during the year 1958.

The bird section contains specimens of most of the one hundred species of the birds of Mauritius. They have been grouped into water birds, marsh birds, sea birds, game birds and land birds. Twenty-four, are displayed separately. The extinct species are represented by means of feathered restorations and paintings, and in some cases by actual skeletons. The Dodo is exhibited together with its allies which inhabited the neighbouring islands of Reunion and Rodrigues. The species which was found in Reunion was known as the "Albino Dodo"; it is known only from historical evidence and by a 17th century painting, a reproduction of which is exhibited in the museum. The Rodrigues *Solitaire* is exemplified by a genuine skeleton and by a water-colour reproduction of the feathered bird. The Mauritius also possesses the only known skeleton of the Mauritius Red Hen (*Aphanapteryx bonasia*) and one of the three known examples of the Mauritius Dutch Pigeon (*Alectroenas nesiota*), a species which became extinct about one hundred years ago.

In the mammal section are found examples of the various species occurring in the Island which, with the exception of the Javanese Deer imported by the Dutch, a Borneo Macaque and the Indian Wild Boar introduced in the Island by the Portuguese, the Wild Pig and the Indian Wild Boar.

In the reptile section are exhibited examples of the various species of tortoises, extinct or still living, peculiar to the Indian Ocean islands, and of various kinds of turtles found in the Indian Ocean. The geckos, lizards and snakes of the Island are exhibited, including the very curious Round Island snakes, two species of which are found and are considered to be "living fossils".

The fish section displays examples of the numerous species found in the territorial waters of the Island, all of them stuffed and painted in their natural colours. Fresh-water fishes, comprising about twenty-five species, some indigenous, others introduced, are also exhibited.

A large number of Echinoderms (sea-stars and urchins) from the region and examples of nearly all the species, including almost unique ones, are represented in the Museum.

The Mollusca section has a rich collection and the Island is reputed for its extremely large variety of sea-shells, though most of these occur as well in all the Indo-Pacific region. The land shell fauna, comprising about two hundred species, is less spectacular but is scientifically more important, as many groups are peculiar to the Island. The fresh-water mollusca are insignificant, except from a medical point of view, one species being known to transmit a serious disease.

The Museum also possesses local collections of crustaceans, insects, corals and plants.

Biological Research

The very interesting remnants of the indigenous land fauna and flora, together with the rich marine life of the surrounding seas present excellent opportunities for biological research. Scientific collections of all groups are made and these are studied overseas and locally by experts, the results being published in the Mauritius Institute Bulletin and in specialized publications abroad.

Art Gallery

A small art gallery is attached to the Port Louis Museum, consisting mainly of a collection of paintings presented to the Institute in 1921 by the late Mr. Edgar de Rochecouste. This collection includes a certain number of paintings of artists such as Ziem, Le Sidaner, Harpignies, and Jacques-Emile Blanche. A small section is devoted to the works of local artists.

The Historical Museum

A subsidiary museum devoted to local history has been opened in an old French house at Mahébourg recently acquired by Government. It was in this house that Monsieur de Robillard, the French Commandant of Grand Port, received the two wounded commanders of the English and French squadrons, Admirals Willoughby and Duperré, during the well-known naval battle of August, 1810. Several objects connected with this episode and recovered one hundred and twenty-four years later from the wreck of the *Magicienne*, one of the English frigates sunk in Grand Port bay during the engagement, are exhibited. These objects include a portion of the ship's hulk, several heavy guns and carronades, cannon balls, grape-shot, copper coins, pieces of sailor's uniform and various other relics.

The capture of the Island by the British at the beginning of December, 1810, is illustrated by a series of coloured prints drawn on the spot by Temple.

A section of the museum is devoted to the display of a valuable collection of maps, charts, engravings and watercolours (many in original) which serve to introduce the visitor to the various periods of the history of Mauritius from its discovery to the present time. Worthy of special mention in this section are a portulan map published at Amsterdam in 1595 (probably the most accurate map of the region available at the time of the first Dutch visit to Mauritius in 1590), an English map of Mauritius by Mount and Page published in 1745 and derived from a Dutch source, Abbé de la Caille's map (1753) which is the first accurate map of the Island, Bellin's map of 1763, and two maps by Lislet Geoffroy, published by the British Admiralty in 1813 and 1814. Modern maps are also shown, including the fine one-inch map by Descubes (1880) which is of great practical interest as it indicates the site of over a thousand concessions.

Among the series of lithographs and water-colours recording the life, scenery and customs of different periods may be noted six water-colours by Kelsey (early 1840's), coloured prints by Thuillier, coloured lithographs by Bradshaw and Rider (1831-32), water-colours by Leroy (1860's), and a water-colour panoramic view of Mauritius, sketched from Port Louis harbour by Augustus Earle who was on board the *Beagle* when Charles Darwin visited Mauritius in 1836.

A few pieces of local furniture belonging to the French Governor Mahé de Labourdonnais (1699-1753) and exhibits from the East Indiaman *Kent* which was captured by Robert Surcouf, *Roi des Corsaires*, in the Bay of Bengal in October, 1800, are on view.

Relics connected with the activities of the French privateers in the Indian Ocean at the beginning of the 19th century are also displayed.

Part of a room of the Museum is devoted to the history of transport in Mauritius exemplified by two *palanquins* and a *chaise à porteurs* which were in use before the era of roads and wheeled traffic.

A small exhibit is devoted to the history of the famous "Post Office" stamp of Mauritius (1847) and is illustrated by reprints of the stamp.

Among miscellaneous items of interest may be cited: objects rescued from some memorable shipwrecks in the region, the portraits

or busts of certain French and British Governors (Mahé de Labourdonnais, Charles Decaen, Robert Farquhar, Lowry Cole, John Pope Hennessy), and the Roll of Honour of the Mauritian soldiers who lost their lives in the Second World War.

A bell which was in use for many years at the naval base of Trincomalee was presented to the museum during the year by Vice-Admiral Sir Hilary Biggs, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., the 100th and last Commander-in-Chief of the East Indies Station. At a ceremony held at the Historical Museum on the 5th November, 1958, His Excellency the Governor formally accepted the memento and entrusted it to the Museum.

Learned Societies

The following scientific and literary societies are associated with the Mauritius Institute:—

(1) *The Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius* was founded in 1829 under the name of *Société d'Histoire Naturelle* and was honoured in 1847 by the permission of Queen Victoria to add the word "Royal" to its name. Its activities extend to most branches of natural history. Lectures on science and art are delivered by its members from time to time and also by visiting professors, artists and scientists. Proceedings of the Society, containing papers read before the Society, are published annually. The Society owns a library which contains many rare and valuable books and periodicals on natural history.

(2) *The Société de Technologie Agricole et Sucrière de Maurice* is a technical body founded in 1910 and devoted to the study of questions relating to agriculture and to sugar technology. The papers and proceedings of the Society are published in the bi-monthly *Revue Agricole*.

(3) *The Société des Ecrivains Mauriciens* was founded in 1938 with the object of encouraging the publication of literary works, and of establishing contacts with literary institutions overseas.

(4) *The Indian Cultural Association* was founded in 1936 with the object of promoting Indian culture in Mauritius and of fostering spiritual ties with India. It publishes a quarterly journal called "The Indian Cultural Review".

(5) *The Société de l'Histoire de l'Ile Maurice* was founded in 1938 to foster and encourage the study of the Colony's history by the collection of documents on local history, publication of historical works, and the organisation of historical exhibitions and lectures.

One of the principal activities of the Society has been the production of the Dictionary of Mauritian Biography, twenty-five parts of which have already appeared. These contain about one thousand biographies of persons connected with Mauritius by birth or residence.

The Society awards prizes to schoolchildren to encourage the study of Mauritian history. It keeps in touch and exchanges publications with overseas institutions of like interests.

THE MAURITIUS ARCHIVES

The Mauritius Archives Office is not only one of the oldest departments of the Colony, dating from the early years of the French settlement, but it is also one of the oldest archive centres of the Southern Hemisphere, ranking only after the Cape and Réunion repositories.

Under French rule the Office was a branch of the *Conseil Supérieur* and received special attention from the authorities. An early instance of the interest of the French Government in colonial archives is provided by the edict of 1770, which set up a central *Dépôt des Chartes des Colonies* at Versailles and enacted regulation for their better preservation. Another important measure was the establishment in Mauritius in 1808 of a *Dépôt des Cartes de la Marine* which for a long time supplied sailors and travellers in the South Indian Ocean with valuable information.

At the time of the land fighting which led to the surrender of the Island by the French, the local archives were removed from Port Louis to a safer place of custody in Plaines Wilhems and thus escaped damage. In 1815, after the final cession of Mauritius to Great Britain, they were handed over to the British authorities in an almost complete state, as comparatively few of the records were retained by the French Government.

Until 1949 the Archives were attached to the Registrar General's Department, and from January, 1950, to the Central Administration. By the Archives Ordinance (No. 71 of 1952) they were transferred to an Archives Department which is now the central repository of all public archives.

The Archives Office is now divided into the following sections:

- (i) the Repository, which comprises *inter alia* the records of the old French Administration (1721-1810), records of the British Administration (from 1810), notarial records, and private records;

- (ii) the Library, which, besides being the official registry of all publications issued in Mauritius, contains Mauritian printed abroad, reference books on general history, colonial history and archivology with a section devoted to collections of stamps, seals, currency notes and other materials;
- (iii) the Land Registry, which comprises the records of the former Land Court, memoranda of survey deposited by sworn land surveyors, with a section containing maps, charts and plans.

The Department is also equipped with a photostat and a duostat for the photocopying of records and the supply of copies to Government departments and to the public.

The control and disposal of records is supervised by the Public Archives Records Destruction Committee. The Chief Archivist also inspects regularly archives in the custody of agencies other than the main repository.

Publications include the annual report, the quarterly *Memoranda* of books and periodicals issued in Mauritius and registered in the Archives, and the publications issued by the Archives Publication Fund Committee (established in 1951).

The bibliographical survey of Mauritian started in 1951 was completed in February, 1955. The book, including about 1,000 pages and comprising altogether 8,865 entries, was published in 1956 under the title of *Bibliography of Mauritius, 1502-1954*. It was compiled with particular attention to historical development and with the main object of meeting the needs of those interested in history. To keep it up to date it is proposed to issue every year, as an appendix to the annual report of the Archives Department, a bibliographical supplement including additional material recorded during each successive year from 1955 onwards. Three supplements have appeared.

Former publications of the Mauritius Archives Publication Fund comprise an Atlas-Souvenir to commemorate the work of Abbé de la Caille in Mauritius, a selection of documents on early American trade with Mauritius and the *Répertoire des Archives de l'Île de France pendant la régie de la Compagnie des Indes (1715-1768)*.

In 1958 the Committee issued its fourth publication entitled: *Mauritius and the spice trade: the odyssey of Pierre Poivre*, edited by Miss Madeleine Ly-Tio-Fane.

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

In February, 1958, the British Council occupied new premises in Rose Hill which had been specially designed to meet the requirements of Council activities. The membership of the Centre has steadily increased and in December, 1958, 1,110 adult members and 2,082 student members were using the Library regularly. The work of explaining and interpreting the British way of life was carried on throughout the Island and special emphasis was placed on those British institutions which are now being adapted for use in Mauritius. Prominence was also given to Britain's solution in the past of some of the urgent problems which face Mauritius today. This programme was carried out by means of lectures, film shows, study groups and vacation courses and covered a very wide range of subjects, including the technique of English teaching, The Public Service, Local Government, Vocational Guidance as well as English Literature and the Arts. The welfare of students leaving Mauritius for higher studies in the United Kingdom has long been a Council responsibility and this year as before the Introduction Course was provided for 74 students before their departure from Mauritius.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL AND CULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS

British Medical Association, Mauritius Branch

A branch of the British Medical Association was founded in 1939. Membership is granted to all medical practitioners who have qualified for registration in Mauritius, including those holding French qualifications. The Branch represents the majority of the doctors in the Island and close collaboration is maintained between Government and the profession. The Branch is frequently consulted by the Government.

Le Cercle Littéraire de Port Louis

The principal object of this Society is to seek to bring together all those interested in French culture and ideas. Its aims are to encourage, by means of annual competitions and public lectures, the study of the French language and literature. A review, *L'Essor*, is published by this Society.

Alliance Française

The Mauritius Branch of the Alliance Française was founded in 1884 with the object of encouraging the study of the French language by means of French courses in schools and annual examinations as well as meetings and conferences on French literature and art.

Mauritius Dramatic Club

The first record of an organised amateur theatrical production in Mauritius goes back as far as the 25th April, 1848, when officers of the 5th Battalion, the Northumberland Fusiliers, staged three one-act plays at the Port Louis Theatre.

A Mauritius Amateur Dramatic Club was formed in 1898 and stage productions and play readings were regularly featured until the 1914-1918 War.

The present Mauritius Dramatic Club owes its origin to a revival in theatrical activity which began in early 1920 and which ultimately led to the formation of the Club in 1932. Since then stage plays, play readings and broadcasts have been frequently presented.

The Vacoas House of Debaters

This association, founded in 1936, takes a special interest in general educational and cultural development.

Fortnightly meetings are held for debates and plays, and occasional radio programmes are presented on the Mauritius Broadcasting Service. Lectures by eminent outside personalities are delivered from time to time.

A Scholarship Fund, authorized by Government, provides for the educational needs of pupil-members taking a secondary course of studies. A girls' section was started in January, 1952, for the benefit of girls of 12 and upwards.

Tennis, volley ball, table-tennis, outings, open air camping are some of the recreational activities.

The Mental and Physical Culture Association

The principal aims of this Association are to encourage the study of the English language and literature and to assist its members to obtain facilities for enjoying sports such as tennis and football.

The Hindi Pracharini Sabha

This society was established in 1935 with headquarters at Montagne Longue. Its main object is to promote and encourage the study of Hindi in Mauritius. Seventy-six Hindi Schools are at present affiliated to it. Efforts are being made to produce a uniform curriculum in all Hindi schools, to improve the standard of teaching, and to foster the study of Hindi language and literature. Two annual examinations in Higher Hindi are conducted with the collaboration of the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Allahabad, India.

The Young Men's Christian Association

The Mauritius Y.M.C.A. was founded in collaboration with the London Central Y.M.C.A. and inaugurated in August, 1952. It is also a member of the World Council of Y.M.C.A.

The P.E.N. Club de l'Océan Indien

The Mauritius section of the "Fédération Internationale des P.E.N. Clubs" was founded in Mauritius in 1951. It seeks to promote a spirit of understanding and friendship among the writers of all sections of the community and also among those of the neighbouring islands.

The English Association

Founded in 1946, the English Association is the outcome of a movement started by a group of English and Mauritian ladies and gentlemen with the primary object of helping Mauritian secondary school-children who were learning English to a better knowledge of the tongue and to a fuller acquaintance with English literature and culture. These school-children, usually weak in spoken English through lack of practice, were above all to be given opportunities of speaking English and of hearing it spoken by English people.

The Association, which has a membership of about 60 and works in close co-operation with the British Council, tries to achieve its aims by engaging in as many activities as possible likely to be of assistance to students of English language and literature. Film shows, dramatic performances, and broadcasts in English are arranged for school children and essay-writing competitions are held. Above all, annual competitions in elocution, acting and choral singing are held and the prize-winners take part in a public recital. The number of schools taking part in these competitions is steadily increasing.

The Association has since its foundation been honoured with the patronage of the Governors of the Colony, its first Patron having been Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

GEOGRAPHY

Mauritius is an island extending over an area of approximately 720 square miles and situated in the Indian Ocean between 19° 58' and 20° 32' South Latitude and the meridians of 57° 17' and 57° 46' East Longitude. It is almost surrounded by a fringing coral reef. The northern part of the Island is a fairly flat plain which rises gently towards the central plateau. Elsewhere the coastal plain is narrow and the ascent to the central plateau abrupt. Bordering the central plateau there are three main mountain ranges with rocky peaks, the highest of which is 2,711 feet. Apart from these ranges, there are many other isolated hills and peaks. There are numerous small rivers throughout the Island, the longest being about 25 miles. Most of the rivers are short and fast-flowing owing to the steepness of the slope from the central plateau to the sea. Waterfalls are not uncommon in Mauritius and some of the larger have been harnessed to supply hydro-electric power. There are only two natural lakes, Grand Bassin and Bassin Blanc. Five reservoirs supply water for domestic use, irrigation and hydro-electric purposes.

Mauritius is one of the most thickly populated countries in the world; its 720 square miles carry a population of 614,000 i.e., about 853 inhabitants per square mile—a staggering figure for an agricultural country. The population of the main towns is as follows:

Port Louis	...	...	...	85,200
Curepipe	...	...	...	27,100
Quatre Bornes	...	...	...	21,500
Rose Hill—Beau Bassin	...	...	...	34,600

The chief industry is sugar production and sugarcane fields may be seen all over the Island. From the hill tops the ground looks like an immense green lawn, regularly intersected by silver-grey and black ribbons of roads. Remnants of the native forests of the Island cover a total area of some 15,000 acres: they are to be found in the mountainous and less accessible regions. The Forest Department is actively replanting with exotic tree species—principally Pines, Eucalyptus, Camphor, Juniper, and Araucarias—those areas where secondary scrub forest has replaced native forests which were cleared many years ago in the process of extending sugarcane cultivation. All round the coast there is a fringe of either casuarina ("filaos") or coconut trees.

PART III

Chapter I: Geography and Climate

GEOGRAPHY

Mauritius is an island extending over an area of approximately 460 square miles and situated in the Indian Ocean between 20° 15' S. and 21° 15' S. latitude and the meridians of 57° 30' E. and 58° 30' E. longitude. It is almost surrounded by a fringing coral reef. The northern part of the Island is a fairly flat plain with a gently sloping central plateau. Elsewhere the coastal plain is abrupt and the ascent to the central plateau abrupt. Bordering the central plateau there are three main mountain ranges with the highest of which is 2,711 feet. Apart from these ranges the country is hilly and peaks. There are numerous rivers on the Island, the longest being about 25 miles. Most of the rivers are short and fast-flowing owing to the steepness of the slopes from the central plateau to the sea. Waterfalls are numerous on Mauritius and some of the larger have been harnessed to supply hydro-electric power. There are only two natural lakes, Grand Lac and Lac des Minimes. Five reservoirs supply water for domestic use and hydro-electric purposes. Mauritius is one of the most thickly populated countries in the world. 460 square miles carry a population of 614,000 i.e., 1,334 inhabitants per square mile—a staggering figure for an island country. The population of the main towns is as follows:

Port Louis	85,200
Quatre Bornes	27,100
Rose Hill	21,500
Beau Bassin	34,000

The chief industry is sugar production and sugarcane fields can be seen all over the Island. From the hill tops the view looks like an immense green lawn, regularly intersected by grey and black ribbons of roads. Remnants of the native forest of the Island cover a total area of some 15,000 acres: they are to be found in the mountainous and less accessible regions. The Forest Department is actively replanting with exotic tree species—namely Pines, Eucalyptus, Camphor, Juniper, and Araucarias—in areas where secondary scrub forest has replaced native forests which were cleared many years ago in the process of extending the cultivation. All round the coast there is a fringe of either coconut ("filao") or coconut trees.

The Colony is comparatively isolated in the Indian Ocean, 500 miles east of Madagascar. Strategically, it is placed at the crossing of the sea routes linking Australia, India and South Africa. Ships *en route* from the Far East to South Africa call regularly at Mauritius, as do the French ships serving Réunion.

Mauritius has a number of island dependencies in the Indian Ocean. These are Rodrigues (350 miles to the east), Chagos (1,180 miles north-east in the direction of Ceylon) and Cargados Carajos (580 miles and 250 miles respectively from Mauritius).

Rodrigues,* the principal dependency, is a mountainous island of volcanic formation encircled by a coral reef and has a total area of about 40 square miles. It measures 9½ miles in length by 3 miles in width and has a population of about 17,000 inhabitants, mostly fishermen and small cultivators.

Chagos* consists of five groups of coral islands, the largest of which is Diego Garcia. The horseshoe-shaped ribbon of land just above sea-level, surrounds a lagoon thirteen miles long and between four and five miles wide. Diego Garcia was of great importance during the second World War.

Agalega* consists of two small islands, separated by a narrow strip of sandbank. This dependency is the main source of copra for the edible oil industry of Mauritius.

The archipelago of Cargados Carajos,* usually referred to by the name of the principal islet, St. Brandon, is a fishing ground leased to a Mauritian company. At present the fish taken in the waters of St. Brandon are dried and salted for export to Mauritius.

CLIMATE

Mauritius lies just within the tropics, but it is a small land area without any large land area in its vicinity. It has, therefore, a tropical climate, tropical maritime during summer and sub-tropical during winter. This differs appreciably from the climate of a place at the same latitude on a large continent. Very high temperatures are experienced in summer nor particularly low ones in winter. In the localities at or near sea-level, especially along the north-west coast and during occasional dry spells, rainfall is sufficient to maintain a green cover of vegetation throughout the year. On the other hand, owing to the high relative humidity, there are periods in summer

*See Map at the end of Report.

particularly if there is little or no wind, when considerable physical discomfort is felt, especially at or near sea-level, even though the temperatures are not extremely high. On the central plateau, which is between 1,000 and 2,000 feet above sea-level, it is comparatively cool almost all the year round. Heavy rains fall in summer, though there is no regular rainy season. In winter, it is cold and wet on the higher parts but cool round the coast. During this period there is a general exodus to the seaside. The bathing beaches with their white coral sand are calm, safe lagoons for bathing, fishing, swimming and boating are attractive and have been favourably compared by travellers with the well-known tourist resorts of Hawaii and other Pacific islands.

The following is a summary of the main climatological features.

Seasons

The year can be divided approximately into two seasons: summer, from November to April, and winter, from May to October, though the months April to June and September to October can be looked upon as transitional periods. The driest period, from September to November, is probably the most pleasant part of the year in all parts of the Island.

Rainfall

The average annual rainfall, at or near sea-level, is 50 inches or less, the minimum being about 30 inches in the western and north-western coastal areas. The amount increases steadily with altitude, and reaches nearly 200 inches on the highest part of the central plateau, at about 2,000 feet above sea-level.

Summer rainfall produces by far the larger proportion of the total for the year and has three main sources. The first, very common in late November and in December, comes from instability showers or "convictional" rain falling in the early afternoon in calm, or nearly calm weather. The second is associated with generally cloudy weather in troughs of low pressure. The third comes from tropical cyclones which, if at a distance from the Island, often give beneficial rain without destructive wind force but which cause much damage and very excessive rainfall if passing over or near to the Island.

Winter rainfall is mostly of an orographic nature, produced by the lifting and cooling of the trade wind stream as it passes over the Island. It is in the form of light rain or drizzle, most of which falls over the central high ground, particularly on the south-eastern side,

True droughts are rare, except near sea-level, but the very large deficiencies which occur from time to time, more often in early summer, are particularly important during the season of rapid growth of the sugarcane from December to April.

Temperatures

The mean temperature varies from 74°F at sea-level to 67°F at 2,000 feet, and the mean annual range is 11°F. The highest and lowest values recorded at the Observatory, Pamplémousses, at an altitude of 180 feet, are 94.8°F and 49.9°F respectively, and the minimum at 1,850 feet is 44.9°F. The mean daily range is 13.5°F.

Humidity

The mean monthly relative humidity increases from about 70 per cent near sea-level in October and November to nearly 90 per cent at 1,850 feet in March. One hundred per cent humidity is quite frequently attained on the highest parts of the plateau and occasionally near sea-level. The lowest value recorded at the Observatory, Pamplémousses, is 33 per cent. The mean daily range varies from 19 per cent in April to 31 per cent in November at 180 feet.

Sunshine

The average number of hours per day of bright sunshine is 7.8 at 180 feet and 7.0 at 1,400 feet. October to December are the months with most sunshine.

Winds

During the winter months, with only occasional interruptions due to low pressure south of Mauritius, the Island experiences steady south-east to east-south-east trade winds of moderate strength. Occasionally they become fairly strong for a day or two but do not reach gale force.

In summer the trades are normally of light to moderate force from the east or east-north-east and interruptions are much more frequent. When these interruptions are due to low pressure to the west or south the winds become northerly or westerly and are very humid and rather warm; when due to a tropical cyclone they may come from any direction and be of any force up to hurricane strength.

Tropical Cyclones

The Island is in the region of tropical cyclones of the South Indian Ocean. These are occasionally very severe, causing widespread destruction to crops, trees and buildings, and sometimes loss of life. Fortunately, visitations of this catastrophic nature are relatively infrequent.

Cyclones occur during the summer season, usually between November and May, but they have been known to affect Mauritius slightly, on rare occasions, in September and October. The greatest frequency of occurrence is in January and February but March is also an important month as cyclones occurring then damage the more fully grown sugarcane crop to a greater extent.

Over the period for which data are available, nearly 100 years, cyclones have caused winds with gust speeds reaching about 100 miles per hour on two or three occasions and gust speeds reaching 60 miles per hour on about thirty occasions. The highest wind speeds so far recorded were in April, 1892, when the average wind speed over a whole hour reached 76 miles per hour and gust speeds were estimated at 114 miles per hour. The winds near the centre of a tropical cyclone are extremely gusty and this, as well as the torrential rain that occurs, adds very considerably to the damage caused to the weaker buildings and to the summer vegetation which is in its most luxuriant state.

The distribution of cyclones over the years is very irregular. It is possible, as in 1945, for the Island to be struck by two destructive cyclones in a matter of weeks; on the other hand periods of 5 years and more sometimes occur with no gale winds. This year was the twelfth in succession in which no damage was caused by cyclones: the length of this period of freedom from such catastrophes has never been equalled in the past 100 years.

Chapter 2: History

The Island was probably visited both by Arab sailors and by Malays during the Middle Ages, and on maps of about 1500 it is shown with an Arabic name. During the early sixteenth century Portuguese sailors visited it several times, and the first European to discover Mauritius is believed to have been Domingos Fernandez. The Island appears on many sixteenth century maps with the Portuguese name of *Cerné* or *Cirné*.

Dutch sailors first visited the Island in 1598 and renamed it Mauritius, after their ruler Prince Maurice of Nassau; later they made frequent calls on their trading expeditions to the East Indies. First-hand accounts exist of these visits, and of visits by English, French and Danish ships, which called at Mauritius for water, food and cargoes of ebony. An English trading company planned to occupy the Island but was forestalled in 1638 by a Dutch company, whose settlement lasted (with a gap from 1658 to 1664) until 1710. It was from Mauritius in 1642 that Tasman set out on his most important voyage of Australasian discovery.

The Dutch settlers never numbered much over three hundred (including children and slaves) and the most useful element was a group of twenty or thirty farmers, rearing cattle, hunting, fishing and growing food crops as well as some tobacco. But the settlement never developed enough to produce dividends and the Dutch company finally abandoned it in 1710. The most noteworthy results of this Dutch occupation were the exploitation of the Island's great ebony forests and the extinction of the Dodo, a bird peculiar to Mauritius, often mentioned by early seventeenth-century travellers. The Dutch are also to be remembered for the introduction of sugarcane, cotton, domestic animals and deer. Before the Dutch occupation the Island was uninhabited. The slaves introduced into Mauritius by the Dutch were brought from Madagascar.

The French in 1715 claimed the Island and called it *Ile de France*, but do not seem to have settled any of their surplus Bourbon colonists there until 1722. In the intervals, European pirates from Madagascar and ships of the British Navy, searching for the pirates, were almost the only visitors.

From 1722 till about 1767 Mauritius was governed by the French East India Company. From 1767 to 1810 it was in charge of officials appointed by the French Government, apart from a brief period of independence under the Colonial Assembly during the

French Revolution. In 1735 the population had grown to almost one thousand, including two hundred Europeans, and from the time of the governorship of Mahé de Labourdonnais onwards increased rapidly, reaching nearly twenty thousand in 1767 (fifteen thousand of them slaves). Labourdonnais did more than any other Governor to change what was a petty outpost into a strong, prosperous and well populated colony. Much of the land was divided into concessions of approximately a quarter-mile by a mile, and most of these were farmed. Coffee, manioc, maize, vegetables, fruit, indigo, cloves and sugar were among the crops grown. There was some rearing of poultry, goats and cattle.

Towards the end of the Company's rule Port Louis, the capital, was a lair of speculators and adventurers desirous of returning to Europe as soon as they had made their fortunes. During the wars of the eighteenth century (Austrian Succession War, Seven Years War, and War of American Independence), the Island became a naval depot, supplying French fleets fighting the British in the Indian Ocean, and was the pivot of French schemes to drive the British out of their Indian trading settlements. It was also a port of call for several expeditions, notably that of Bougainville, and was described by many French travellers, of whom the best known is Bernardin de Saint Pierre, author of *Paul et Virginie*.

From 1767, under royal government, the population continued to increase, reaching thirty thousand in 1777, forty thousand in 1787, and nearly sixty thousand in 1797, including fifty thousand slaves from Madagascar and Africa. During the French Revolution the inhabitants of Mauritius set up a government virtually independent of France, because the property owners were resolved to defend their interests against the *Jacobins* and *sans culottes* and to resist the attempt made by the French revolutionary government to release the slaves. The Colonial Assembly organised successful and damaging raids on English commerce whenever England and France were at war. The raids continued while Decaen, one of Napoleon's generals, was Governor until in 1810 a strong British expedition, long planned and more than once postponed, was sent to capture the Island. A preliminary attack was foiled at Grand Port in August, 1810, but the main attack, launched in December of the same year with larger forces, was successful. Bourbon and Rodrigues were also occupied by the British in 1810, but by the Treaty of Paris in 1814 Bourbon was given back to France. Mauritius and its dependencies, including Rodrigues and the Seychelles, were then ceded definitely to Great Britain.

Many English officials were brought in, together with a large garrison of several regiments. By 1870 the garrison had been gradually reduced to half a battalion, which was still further reduced after 1914. Few English merchants and private persons have settled in Mauritius, whose European population has remained mainly French in language and sentiment although loyal to the British Crown. After 1825 the Island flourished, especially by the export of sugar to England, the crop increasing from 14,000 tons to 34,000 tons in the decade 1823-33. During these early years the English Government's policy of suppression of the slave trade and the consequent plans to free the slaves were opposed until a sum of two million pounds sterling had been paid to the slave owners as compensation for the loss of their slaves. To replace the freed slaves labourers were brought from India to work in the fields. The population, which in 1833 had reached a hundred thousand (three-quarters of them slaves), had by 1861 risen to three hundred thousand, nearly two hundred thousand of them being immigrants from India, most of whom remained to settle in Mauritius.

With the aid of immigrant labour, imported fertilizers, improved methods of agriculture and richer cane varieties, the sugar crop rose to 70,000 tons in 1853, 150,000 tons by 1900, and in 1956 reached the record figure of 572,512 tons. In the interest of the sugar industry, forests were cut down, labourers brought in, reservoir and irrigation schemes carried out, new government departments set up and technicians trained. As Joseph Conrad wrote: "First rate sugarcane is grown there. All the population lives for it and by it. Sugar is their daily bread."

Other industries were sporadically encouraged and usually neglected. After the slaves had been freed, much less food was grown locally and more was imported, especially rice from India. This became the staple food of the population and remained so, except in the 1939-45 war when rice supplies from Burma and India were cut off and imported flour and local crops had to be used as substitutes. When boom prices were being paid for sugar after the 1914-18 war, various minor industries including tea, brick and tile manufacture, tobacco, aloe fibre bags and a government dairy were developed.

One side of Mauritian history is concerned with cyclones, epidemics and crop pests, which from time to time have upset the economy of the island. In the eighteen-fifties there were epidemics of cholera and in the eighteen-sixties five years of epidemic malaria which caused in 1867 the death of 20,000 people in Port Louis alone

and the mass migration of thousands of persons, including almost all the well-to-do, from Port Louis and the coastal districts to the higher, healthier parts of Plaines Wilhems. Curepipe, a scattered village in 1865, was by 1895 large enough to have a town board, nominated annually by the Governor, and by 1958 was a town of over 27,000 people. The district of Plaines Wilhems, which in 1851 had 14,000 inhabitants, grew to 75,000 in 1921 and 182,244 in 1958. The cyclone of 1892, in which 1,200 persons were killed; the epidemic of sura in 1902, which killed off all the draught oxen and caused sugar estates hurriedly to import light railways; bubonic plague in 1899; the *Phytalus Smithi* beetle, which in 1911 was found to be attacking the sugarcane; the 1919 epidemic of influenza; the spread of malaria during the nineteen-thirties into the hills and higher districts; and, finally, three cyclones and a serious outbreak of poliomyelitis in 1945, are some of the greater misfortunes woven into the pattern of the Island's history.

When sugar prices were high and the Island was prosperous, living conditions were improved in various ways. The sanitation of Port Louis was improved in the eighteen-nineties after long discussion. Sir Ronald Ross's visit in 1908 led to useful anti-malarial work during the next twenty years. Reservoirs at Mare-aux-Vacoas (1893-95), La Ferme (1918), La Nicolière (1924) and Piton du Milieu (1956) brought irrigation and domestic water in private houses and to sugar estates in several districts. Child welfare and similar activities developed in the war years. After expert inquiries in 1921 the water supply of Port Louis was greatly improved and the port itself was modernised. Under the stimulus of the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts more money was spent on education after the War. Before 1937 government revenue had come mainly from taxes on goods entering or leaving the Island as well as on various local products. A graduated poll tax on incomes was introduced and within ten years had almost doubled government revenue. The poll tax was replaced by an income tax as from the 1st July, 1951. The revenue from this source rose from Rs 17,322,000 in the financial year 1950-51 to Rs 47,329,926 in the financial year 1957-58.

At times when sugar prices were low or climatic difficulties discouraging, the Island had to raise loans or obtain grants from London. This happened in 1892, in 1908 when a Royal Commission of Inquiry under Sir Frank Swettenham was sent out from England, in 1930 when government expenditure on public works and on salaries was cut, and in 1945 as the consequence of the disastrous cyclones of that year.

The main political events of the period 1850–1900 were the establishment of the Municipality of Port Louis in 1850, the Royal Commission of Enquiry on Indian Immigration in 1872, and the creation in 1886 of a Council of Government including elected members.

The early years of the present century were a period of slow recovery after the epidemics, cyclones and other calamities. The years that immediately followed the 1914–18 war were years of unprecedented prosperity, owing to a boom in sugar prices, but this prosperity did not last long. During the second World War, Mauritius assumed considerable strategic importance through the closing of the Suez Canal and the threat to India by the Japanese after their conquest of most of the European settlements in the Far East. The population at large played a valuable part in the organisation of local, military, and passive defence and a large number of the Colony's youth volunteered to serve overseas.

Chapter 3: Administration

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

The Government of Mauritius is vested in a Governor with an Executive Council and a Legislative Council.

A Council of Government was first established in 1825. It consisted of the Governor and four officials. In the following year the Constitution was amended and a Council which included unofficial members was introduced. This Constitution provided for a Council of Government composed of certain officers of the Crown and an equal number of other persons, to be taken from the chief land-owners and principal merchants of the Colony; seven officials and seven non-officials were accordingly appointed.

The Constitution was again amended in October, 1885. The Council of Government under the revised Constitution was composed of the Governor, eight *ex officio* members, nine members nominated by the Governor, and ten elected members; of the latter, two represented the town of Port Louis, the capital of the Island, and the remaining eight represented the rural districts. At least one-third of the nominated members were to be persons not holding any public office.

The Constitution was further amended in July, 1933, by fixing at two-thirds the proportion of the nominated members of the Council who were to be non-officials and, although no provision to that effect was made in the Letters Patent, the nominated non-official members were allowed a free vote on all occasions. The constitution of the Executive Council, which had hitherto been composed of the Governor and four *ex officio* members, was amended at the same time, and the practice of appointing non-official members to the Council, which had prevailed before the Royal Commission of 1909 reported, was revived.

The normal life of a Council is five years, but the last one to sit under the 1933 Constitution lasted from 1936 to 1948. This long extension was due first of all to the war and subsequently to the delay in arriving at a final decision on the new and more liberal Constitution. The protracted labours of the Consultative Committee on the revision of the constitution had ended in a virtual stalemate. In 1947 the then Governor, Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy, broke this stalemate by submitting to the Secretary of State revised proposals based on his belief that the bulk of the population was not ready for fully democratic institutions. To guard against possible

Chapter 3: Administration

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The normal life of a Council is five years, but the last one to be elected under the 1933 Constitution lasted from 1936 to 1948. This long session was due first of all to the war and subsequently to the delay in arriving at a final decision on the new and more liberal constitution. The protracted labours of the Consultative Committee for the revision of the constitution had ended in a virtual stalemate. In 1947 the then Governor, Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy, broke the stalemate by submitting to the Secretary of State revised proposals based on his belief that the bulk of the population was not ready for fully democratic institutions. To guard against possible

abuse certain safeguards were suggested, but within these limits the widest possible measure of enfranchisement, on the basis of a "simple literacy" requirement, was recommended by the Commission. In error, whose recommendations were accepted and embodied in the Letters Patent, Royal Instructions and Order in Council of 9th December, 1947. A general election was held in August 1948 and the new Council met on the first day of September.

Constituencies were regrouped under the Order in Council of 9th December, 1947. Plaines Wilhems and Black River were grouped together to form one constituency returning six members. The constituencies of Pamplemousses/Rivière du Rempart, Morne and Grand Port/Savanne each returned three members, and the constituency of Port Louis had four members by virtue of its population and commercial importance.

Under the 1933 Constitution the number of registered electors was never greater than 12,000 (the figure of December, 1933, was 11,799). The number of registered electors under the 1948 Constitution was six times greater—71,723 having qualified to vote in the 1948 general election—and by the end of 1957 had risen to 91,010.

In 1958, by virtue of the Mauritius (Electoral Provision) Order in Council, 1958, the 40 constituencies recommended in the report of the Mauritius Electoral Boundary Commission were determined and proclaimed and the registration of electors for the Legislative Council was undertaken for the first time on the basis of universal adult suffrage (see also Part I of this Report). On the 31st December, 1958, the Second Legislative Council was dissolved. The Mauritius (Constitution) Order in Council, 1958, was brought into operation with the exception of Part II thereof, relating to the Executive Council. The way was thus clear for a general election for the Legislative Council on the basis provided in the Constitution. A Constitutional Order in Council to take place early in 1959.

The Legislative Council was composed in 1958 of 19 *ex officio*, 19 elected and 12 nominated non-official members. The Governor formerly presided but since January, 1957, the Council has had a Speaker, appointed by the Governor, in accordance with the Mauritius (Legislative Council) (Amendment) Order in Council of 1956. A Deputy Speaker is elected by the Council from among those members who are not members of the Executive Council.

In debates in the Legislative Council members may speak either in English or in French.

The Executive Council consists of three officials (the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary), four members selected for appointment by the Legislative Council from among the non-official members, and such other members as the Governor may appoint in accordance with section 5(b) of the Royal Instructions, 1947 (formerly two in number). On the introduction of the ministerial system in July, 1957, the unofficial membership of the Executive Council was increased to nine. The Executive Council, which was formerly a purely advisory body, now has executive responsibility exercised through Ministers and has become in effect the principal instrument of policy; the conferment of executive responsibility is symbolised by the introduction of the title of " Minister " for all its members. Seven Ministers hold portfolios as Ministerial Secretary to the Treasury, Minister of Communications, Minister of Agriculture and Lands, Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister of Education and Institutions, Minister of Labour, and Minister of Works and Tourism. Two Ministers are without portfolio.

The names of members of the Executive and Legislative Councils are given in Appendices II and III to this Report.

Between April, 1951, and September, 1956, certain unofficial members of the Executive Council were appointed as " Liaison Officers " for certain subjects in order that they might be brought into closer touch with the work of Government departments and might thus have an opportunity to gain fuller knowledge of departmental policy and take their share in framing it. No Liaison Officers were appointed between September, 1956, when the term of office of the unofficial members appointed in 1953 came to an end, and the introduction of the ministerial system in July, 1957.

The head of the Civil Service is the Colonial Secretary. He is the Governor's principal official adviser on administrative and political matters, and is responsible for the co-ordination of all Government activities. The Financial Secretary continues to be the principal adviser on financial and economic policy acting in concert with the Ministerial Secretary to the Treasury, who is also responsible for specific aspects of financial administration.

The Public Service Commission Ordinance (No. 23 of 1953) came into force on the 11th May, 1955. By virtue of section 52 of the Mauritius (Constitution) Order in Council, 1958, the Commission is now part of the constitution of Mauritius. The Commission's function is to advise the Governor on appointments, promotions,

disciplinary action and other matters which are referred to it in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance. During 1958 the Commission considered 1,956 applications in connexion with first appointments to 498 posts, as well as the claims of 352 candidates for promotion: this involved a total of 500 interviews. The Commission also advised on 37 disciplinary cases and considered 52 matters concerning the grant of study leave or scholarships.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Urban

The Municipality of Port Louis was first established in 1850. The membership of the Municipal Council, which is wholly elected, was increased from 12 to 16 by the Municipality (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950 (No. 35 of that year). The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected by the Council for appointment by the Governor.

In Plaines Wilhems the Town Councils (Constitution) Ordinance (No. 38 of 1950) provided for Town Councils to replace the former Boards of Commissioners for Curepipe, Beau Bassin/Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes. The majority of the members are elected but each Council has a proportion of members nominated by the Governor: Curepipe and Beau Bassin/Rose Hill each have nine elected and four nominated members, while Quatre Bornes has seven elected and three nominated members.

The franchise is based on residence plus a simple literacy test, occupation of business premises in the electoral area, or the payment of rates or taxes.

The number of registered electors for the Municipal and Town Councils at the end of 1958 was as follows:—

<i>Council</i>	<i>Registered electors</i>
Port Louis	17,851
Curepipe	4,724
Beau Bassin/Rose Hill ...	5,326
Quatre Bornes	4,682

By virtue of the Local Government Elections Ordinance (No. 1 of 1956) responsibility for the registration of electors and for the conduct of elections in the electoral areas of the Municipality and the three Town Councils is placed on an Electoral Commissioner appointed by the Governor. In 1956 electors were registered and the general elections for the Municipal and Town Councils were conducted in accordance with the provisions of that Ordinance for the first time.

Rural

A fresh start in rural local government was made in October, 1946, when a Civil Commissioner was appointed to take charge of the southern districts of Grand Port and Savanne. In May, 1947, a second Civil Commissioner was appointed for the northern districts of Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart, and a third Civil Commissioner for the districts of Moka and Flacq, assumed duty towards the end of 1948. In October, 1952, Black River was added to the districts for which the Civil Commissioner (South) was responsible. In September, 1955, a fourth Civil Commissioner was appointed to take charge of Black River District, the extra-urban areas of Plaines Wilhems and the southern extra-urban areas of Port Louis. The northern extra-urban areas of Port Louis are within the province of the Civil Commissioner (North). The Civil Commissioner is the principal administrative and executive officer of Government in his district and he is responsible for coordinating the whole machinery of Government. The Civil Commissioner is also responsible for the development of local government in his district and for ensuring the welfare of its inhabitants by all means at his disposal.

Village councils were first constituted in 1947. A few councils developed very rapidly indeed and were given government contracts for such services as scavenging and the upkeep of cemeteries. With funds provided by the Central Government, councils undertook road repairs, the construction of bridges, markets, public latrines and primary school buildings, improvements to water supplies, the creation of a day nursery and even a housing experiment. Not all village councils have reached the same standard.

New impetus was given to rural local government by the Village Councils and District Councils Ordinances which came into force in 1952. Regular elections and powers to raise taxes, own property and make bye-laws greatly enhanced the status of the village councils. The district council, which advises the Civil Commissioner on matters of policy, allocates funds to village councils and generally correlates their work, is able to raise certain taxes not applicable to any one village. At the end of 1952 district councils were set up in each of the three Civil Commissioners' districts following elections held under the Ordinance. In Plaines Wilhems/Black River District a district council was constituted for the first time after the village council elections held in 1958.

At the end of 1958 there were 29 village councils in the South, 30 in Moka/Flacq, 30 in the North and 19 in Plaines Wilhems/Black River.

Village councils consist of eight members elected on a liberal franchise and four members nominated by the Governor. District councils consist of the Civil Commissioner and thirteen other members. These members are: an elected member of the Legislative Council appointed by the Governor; a sugar estate manager appointed by the Governor from among those in the district; a president of a co-operative society elected by the presidents of co-operative societies in the district; representatives of the Medical, Education, and Public Works and Surveys Departments appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the head of department; and seven chairmen of village councils elected by the chairmen of village councils in the district. The chairman of the district council is elected by the members from amongst their number and has so far been the Civil Commissioner. The Local Government Officer is the secretary and treasurer of the district council.

Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1956 on the development of rural local government in Mauritius was accepted by the Legislative Council in 1956 as providing a sound basis for such development. The Paper reviewed the present position in regard to rural local government by village and district councils and suggested the general lines on which the responsibilities and exercise of active citizenship in the rural areas could best be developed. The proposals made in this Paper were that (a) district and village councils should cease to be primarily agencies for the distribution of funds derived from the Central Government and should raise their own funds, (b) district and village councils should have appropriate trained staff, (c) by 1960 the direct participation of Civil Commissioners in the work of district councils, as members of those councils, should cease, and (d) representatives of Government departments should similarly cease to be members of district councils by nomination. The detailed implementation of these proposals is still under consideration.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

The metric system is in general use in the Colony. Certain French measures are still used in connection with measurements of land, the more common being:

1 French foot	=	1'06 English feet
1 Arpent	=	40,000 French square feet or 1'04 acres
1 Toise	=	6 French feet or 2 yards 4 inches

The following measures of capacity are also in use:

1 Bouteille	=	800 c.c. (liquid)
1 Chopine	=	half-bouteille
1 Corde	=	80 French cubic feet or 96'82 English cubic feet (used only to measure firewood).

A measure of length commonly used in the field is the *Gaulette* which is equivalent to 10 French feet. The term *livre* is used currently to mean half a kilogram.

The Weights and Measures Control Section of the Police Force is responsible for examining and stamping weights, scales, weighing machines, measures of length and measures of capacity. This section also deals with all inaccurate weights and measures seized by the uniformed Police and issues the necessary certificates for production in Court. The control of weighbridges on sugar estates is the responsibility of the Central Board constituted under the Sale of Canes (Control) Ordinance.

The amount of duty collected on weights and measures in 1958 was Rs 11,609 as compared with Rs 16,281 in 1957.

Chapter 5: Reading List

A list of publications of general interest relating to Mauritius is given in Appendix IV.

APPENDIX I

Capital Expenditure Programme 1957—1962

Allocations made in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1958 and
Actual Expenditure in 1957-58

CENTRAL AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AND SECONDARY
INDUSTRIES AND ELECTRICITY

<i>Allocation</i>	<i>Total 1957-62</i>	<i>Actual Expenditure 1957-58</i>
	Rs	Rs
Central Administration	1,770,000	171,343
District Administration	287,500	12,127
Police	5,709,700	667,217
Fire Services	957,000	108,059
Broadcasting	845,200	202,466
Registrar General	690,000	—
Treasury	110,000	3,333
Customs and Excise	150,000	—
Local Government... ..	9,300,000	1,150,000
Miscellaneous Grants and Subventions	1,240,000	50,000
Secondary Industries	4,700,000	7,110
Electricity	30,000,000	6,698,934
TOTAL	55,759,400	9,070,589

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Agriculture	21,632,500	2,807,816
Forests	602,100	46,207
Fisheries	290,000	42,031
Cadastral Survey	200,000	—
TOTAL	22,724,600	2,896,054

WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Water Supplies and Irrigation	13,362,000	2,024,877
Sewerage	19,090,000	276,258
Public Works Miscellaneous	4,543,900	545,432
Printing	230,000	—
Architectural	75,000	—
Roads	22,901,000	2,342,068
Harbour and Quays	10,693,500	451,019
Posts and Telegraphs	324,800	145,985
Telecommunications	9,144,000	708,640
Observatory	517,600	173,599
Civil Aviation	378,000	54,882
Road Traffic Licensing Authority	1,180,000	74,945
TOTAL	82,439,800	6,797,705

APPENDIX I—*continued*

<i>Allocation</i>						<i>Total 1957-62</i>	<i>Actual Expenditure 1957-58</i>
						<i>Rs</i>	<i>Rs</i>
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES							
Medical and Health	...	...	...	...	...	13,162,000	2,156,829
Prisons	...	...	...	...	...	536,900	70,902
Public Assistance	...	...	...	...	...	418,000	—
Social Welfare	...	...	...	...	...	163,000	14,958
TOTAL						<u>14,279,900</u>	<u>2,242,689</u>
EDUCATION AND INSTITUTIONS							
Mauritius Institute...	...	...	...	...	...	90,000	7,954
Education	...	...	...	...	...	24,266,300	3,576,512
TOTAL						<u>24,356,300</u>	<u>3,584,466</u>
LABOUR, HOUSING AND CO-OPERATION							
Co-operation	...	...	...	...	...	692,000	86,050
Housing	...	...	...	...	...	10,000,000	600,000
TOTAL						<u>10,692,000</u>	<u>686,050</u>
GRAND TOTAL						<u>210,252,000</u>	<u>25,277,533</u>

APPENDIX II

(Part III—Chapter 3: Administration)

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1958*President*

His Excellency SIR ROBERT SCOTT, K.C.M.G.

*Ex Officio Members**The Colonial Secretary*

ROBERT NEWTON, ESQ., C.M.G., until 31st August.

F. L. SIMPSON, ESQ., (Acting) from 1st September.

The Attorney General

R. NEERUNJUN, ESQ., O.B.E., Q.C., until 9th February and from 25th September.

M. LAVOPIERRE, ESQ., (Acting) from 10th February to 24th September.

The Financial Secretary

W. G. WILSON, ESQ., until 17th December.

D. A. KAIN, ESQ., O.B.E., (Acting) from 18th December.

Selected for appointment by the Governor

Dr. the Honourable C. E. MILLIEN, Minister of Labour.

Dr. the Honourable S. RAMGOOLAM, Ministerial Secretary to the Treasury.

The Honourable A. G. SAUZIER, Minister of Works and Communications until 12th June, Minister of Communications from 13th June.

The Honourable A. M. OSMAN, O.B.E., Minister of Agriculture and Lands.

Appointed by the Governor

Dr. the Honourable L. A. CÉLESTIN, M.C., Minister without Portfolio.

The Honourable J. G. FORGET, Minister of Health and Social Services.

APPENDIX II—*continued*

The Honourable P. G. R. RAULT, Minister without Portfolio until 12th June, Minister of Works and Tourism from 13th June.

The Honourable R. SEENEEVASSEN, Minister of Education and Institutions (deceased 5th June).

The Honourable H. R. VAGHJEE, Minister without Portfolio until 12th June, Minister of Education and Institutions from 13th June.

The Honourable V. RINGADOO, Minister without Portfolio, from 26th June.

APPENDIX III

(Part III—Chapter 3: Administration)

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE
FOR THE YEAR 1958*Speaker*

SIR ROBERT STANLEY, K.B.E., C.M.G.

Deputy Speaker

The Honourable A. BEEJADHUR, Elected Member for Pamplemousses—Rivière du Rempart.

Ex Officio Members

The Colonial Secretary

ROBERT NEWTON, ESQ., C.M.G., until 31st August.

F. L. SIMPSON, ESQ., (Acting) from 1st September.

The Attorney General

M. LAVOPIERRE, ESQ., (Acting) until 24th September.

R. NEERUNJUN, ESQ., O.B.E., Q.C., from 25th September.

The Financial Secretary

W. G. WILSON, ESQ.

Elected Members

Dr. the Honourable S. RAMGOOLAM, for Pamplemousses—Rivière du Rempart.

Dr. the Honourable C. E. MILLIEN, for Port Louis.

The Honourable R. SEENEEVASSEN, for Port Louis (deceased 5th June).

The Honourable H. R. VAGHJEE, for Pamplemousses—Rivière du Rempart.

The Honourable J. M. J. L. M. J. KÖENIG, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable S. BISSEONDOYAL, for Grand Port—Savanne.

The Honourable J. G. FORGET, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable P. G. R. RAULT, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable V. RINGADOO, for Moka—Flacq.

APPENDIX III—*continued*

Dr. the Honourable R. BHAGEERUTTY, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable S. BOOLELL, for Moka—Flacq.

The Honourable F. S. CHADIEN, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

Dr. the Honourable L. R. CHAPERON, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable A. R. MOHAMED, for Port Louis.

The Honourable L. P. ROZEMONT, for Grand Port—Savanne.

Dr. the Honourable W. R. DUPRÉ, for Port Louis.

The Honourable R. BALGOBIN, for Moka—Flacq.

The Honourable J. N. ROY, for Grand Port—Savanne.

Nominated Members

The Honourable A. L. NAIRAC, C.B.E., Q.C.

The Honourable A. M. OSMAN, O.B.E.

Dr. the Honourable A. E. DE CHAZAL, O.B.E.

The Honourable J. AH-CHUEN.

The Honourable M. A. D. R. MAIGROT, O.B.E.

The Honourable A. G. SAUZIER.

The Honourable H. A. BAHEMIA.

Dr. the Honourable L. A. CÉLESTIN, M.C.

The Honourable M. J. E. PIAT.

The Honourable F. LAVENTURE.

The Honourable I. G. G. SMITH.

APPENDIX IV

(Part III—Chapter 5: Reading list)

Leading Books on Mauritius

GENERAL

GENERALIA

UNIENVILLE, Marie Claude Antoine Marrier, baron d': *Statistique de l'île Maurice et ses dépendances suivie d'une notice historique sur cette colonie et d'un Essai sur l'île de Madagascar*. Paris, G. Barba, 1838. 3 vols.

A second edition was published in Port Louis, Typ. The Merchants and Planters Gazette, 1885-86, 3 vols, with phot. portr.

MACMILLAN, Allister, *ed*: *Mauritius Illustrated*. Historical and descriptive, commercial and industrial facts, figures, and resources. London, W. H. and L. Collingridge, 1914. 456, with numerous illus. and maps.

WALTER, A.: *Chronological table of events in Mauritius, 1507-1916*. Appendix to the *Mauritius Almanac*, (1917). Mauritius, The Mauritius Stationery and Printing Cy. Ltd., 1917. 57p.

Fairly complete for the period of British occupation.

CHAROUX, Clément: *Guide illustré de l'île Maurice*. Port Louis. General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1936. 64, (32), 11p., illus.

TOUSSAINT, Auguste: *Port Louis, deux siècles d'histoire, (1735-1935)*. Avec une Préface de Pierre Crépin, Docteur-ès-Lettres, Lauréat de l'Académie Française. Port Louis, La Typographie Moderne, 1936. (IX), 516p., with 50 plates and 9 maps.

Published on the occasion of the celebration of the bi-centenary of the foundation of Port Louis under the patronage of the Bi-centenary Committee, the Historical Records Committee and the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius. A very full account of the development of Port Louis.

BARNWELL, P. J. and TOUSSAINT, A.: *A short history of Mauritius*. London, Longmans, Green & Co., 1949. 268p., illus.

SORNAY, Pierre de: *Isle de France—Ile Maurice*. Port Louis. The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1950. XIV, 550, XXVIIp., illus., 28cm.

TOUSSAINT, Auguste: *Select bibliography of Mauritius*. Port Louis. The Standard Printing Establishment, 1951. 56p. 22cm.

APPENDIX IV—*continued*

TOUSSAINT, A., and ADOLPHE, H.: *Bibliography of Mauritius (1502–1954)*, covering the printed record, manuscripts, **archivalia** and cartographic material. Port Louis, Esclapon Ltd. 1956. xvii, 884p.

ADMINISTRATIVE

ADMINISTRATION AND POLITICS

SWETTENHAM, Sir Frank Athestane, and others: *Report of the Mauritius Royal Commission, 1909, presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty, June 1910 (Cd.5185)*. London, Eyre and Spottiswoode Ltd., 1910.60, XIIIp.

Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence printed separately (Cd. 5186), 581p. Documents received by the Commission also printed separately (Cd. 5187), 135p.

SWINDEN, J. B.: *Local Government in Mauritius*. Mauritius Government Press, 1946. 25p.

Revision of the Constitution. Correspondence with the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Mauritius, Government Press, 1947. 18p.

Problems of Parliamentary Government in Colonies—A report by the Hansard Society.

The development of rural local government in Mauritius. 12p. (Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1956).

Constitutional development in Mauritius. 56p. (Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1956).

Correspondence on proposals for Constitutional Changes 5p., (Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1957).

SOCIAL

POPULATION

BEEJADHUR, Aunauth: *Les Indiens à l'Ile Maurice*. Port Louis, La Typographie Moderne, 1935. 126p.

THORNTON WHITE, L. W.: *A master plan for Port Louis, Mauritius*. South Africa, Cape Times Ltd., 1953. 89p., diag., plans.

UNIENVILLE, Noël d': *L'Ile Menacée*. The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 109p., map. illus.

APPENDIX IV—*continued*

S L A V E R Y

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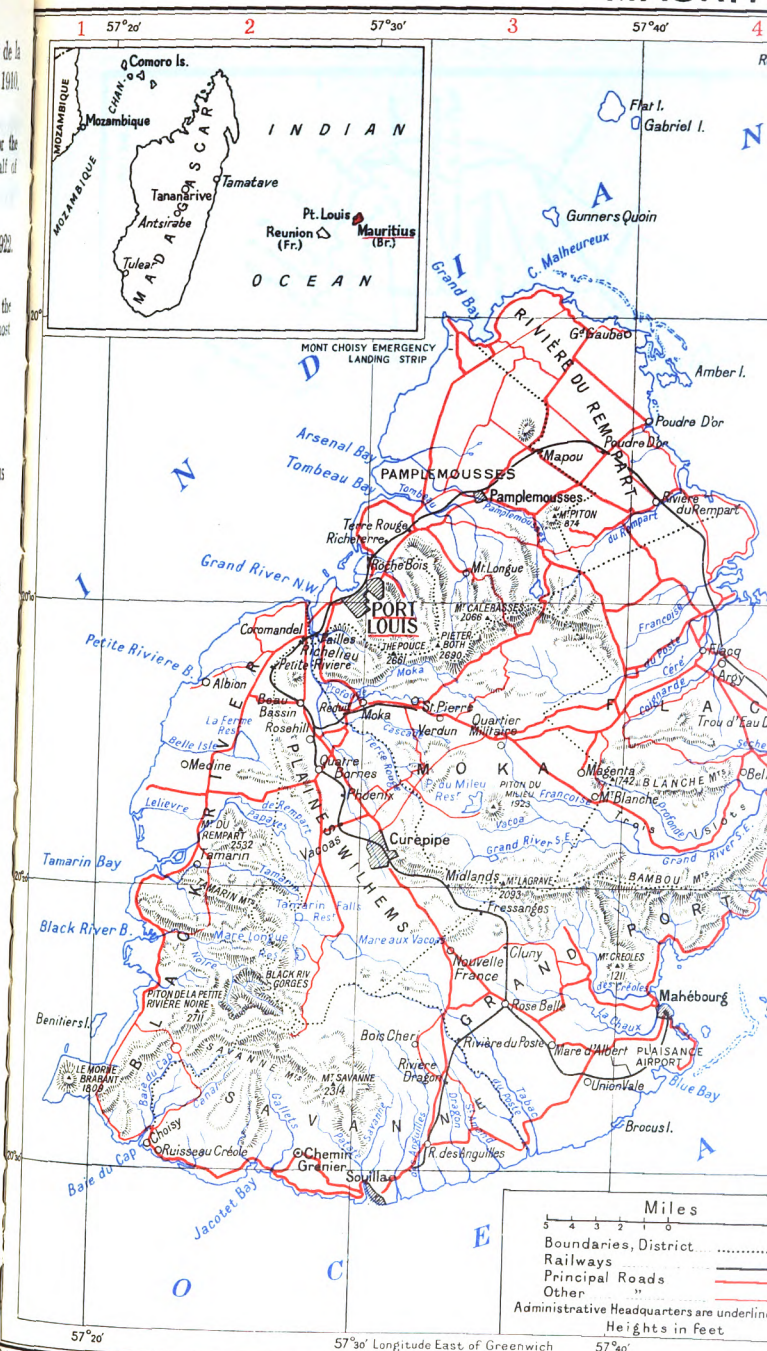
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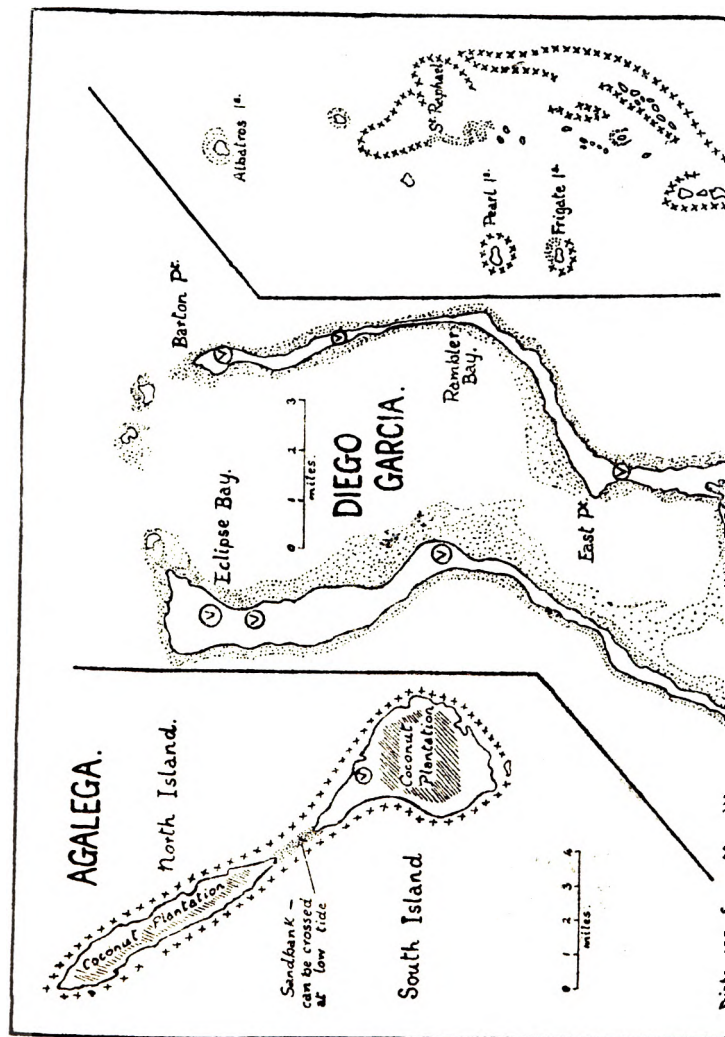
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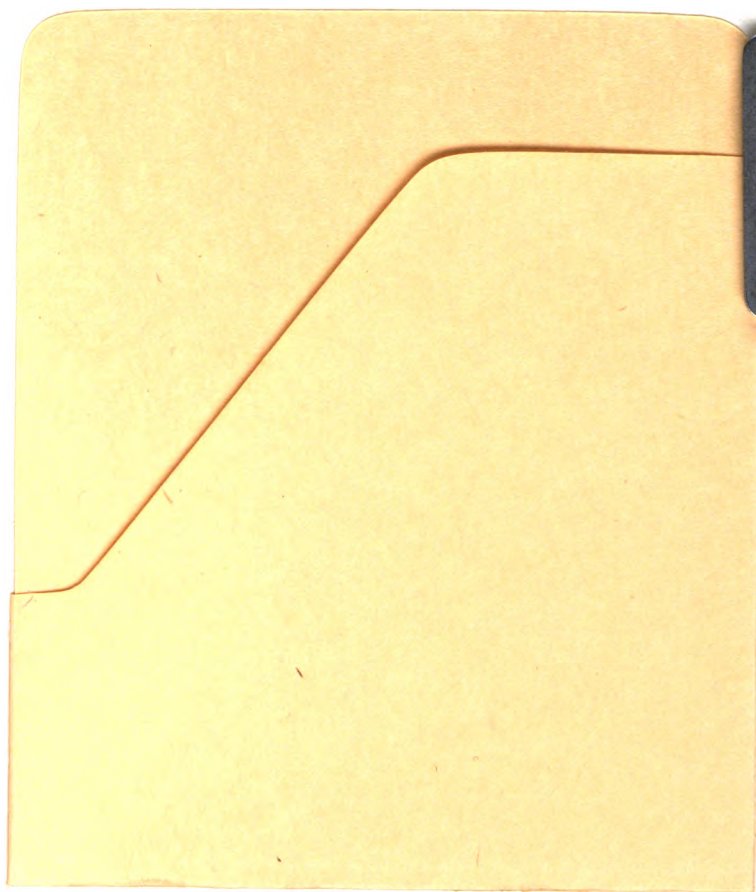
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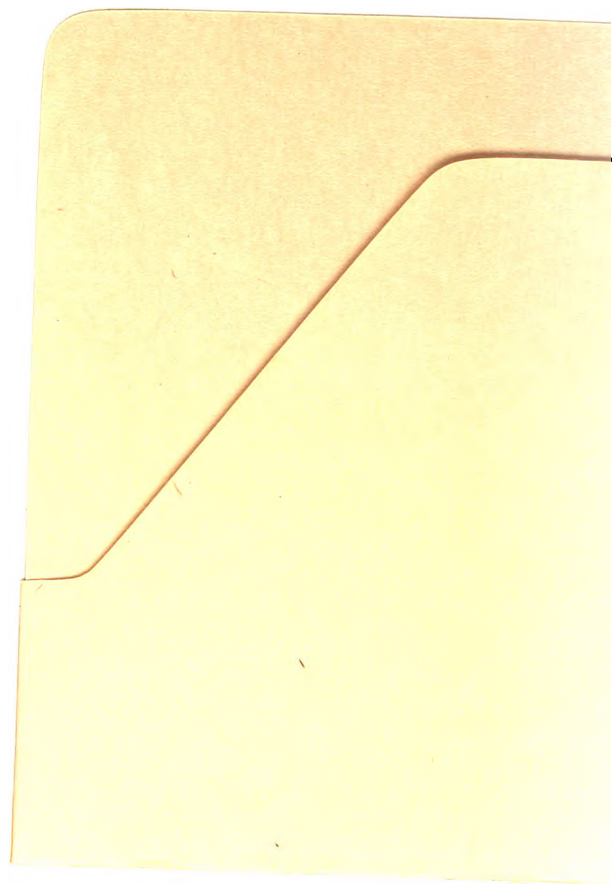
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